

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 310

THURSDAY DECEMBER 30, 2010

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, rate your level of optimism that the CNMI economy will improve next year.

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Christmas Camp

Over 50 students participate in Christmas sports and art programs.

LOCAL...Page 6



Alternate Biology

Do arsenic-tolerant bacteria redefine life?

FOCUS...Page 17



Mochi Festival

Rain showers fail to dampen the spirits of participants in the Mochitsuki Festival.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Man who ran over GF found guilty on lesser charges. **PAGE 2**
High court says Atalig, Yana deserve attorney fees. **PAGE 5**

“The financial status at this time is far more severe than the previous cases of delayed payroll.”

—Press secretary Angel Demapan



Sad New Year for public servants

- » Payless payday for non-critical employees
- » Payroll may also be delayed for critical workers
- » Fitial administration cites most severe cash shortage

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Thousands of locally-funded government employees will not receive their paychecks in time for the New Year celebrations as the Fitial administration reports its worst cash collection to date, to the disappointment yesterday of many government employees

and officials who are already subject to a 16-hour pay cut every pay period and unpaid holidays.

See SAD on Page 4

Kagman rape case dismissed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman granted the government's motion to dismiss without prejudice the cases against the three suspects in the Kagman rape case and ordered their immediate release from custody.

Dismissal without prejudice means that the government can re-file the charges against the suspects at a later date.

See RAPE on Page 4

RINGING IN THE YEAR

Regardless of the bad state of the economy, welcoming the New Year isn't complete without firecrackers and fireworks like these ones sold at the Dragon Fireworks on Middle Road in Gualo Rai yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



CUC asked to spare 20 offices from disconnections

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration has asked the

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to spare 20 government offices under the Executive Branch from being disconnected.

CUC cut off many government offices

from the island's power grid Tuesday afternoon due to unpaid bills amounting to close to \$2.5 million, representing billings from August through October.

Yesterday, the administration classified the following offices as critical and asked that CUC spare them from any power interruption:

- Department of Finance (all divisions);

See CUC on Page 4



120 FREE! Roundtrip
Tickets to the **Philippines**

Just for being
a loyal
IT&E Customer

12th Drawing: December 30, 2010
Qualifying is Easy!



Saipan: 682-4ITE (4463) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3500 • Guam: 671-822-4ITE (4463) • www.ita.net

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

* Terms and conditions apply

The Saipan Tribune will be closed on Friday, Dec. 31, in celebration of the New Year.

There will therefore be no newspaper on Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011.

The Saipan Tribune Person of the Year and Year-end Reports will be published in the Dec. 31 edition of the newspaper.

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Local

Court finds man guilty of beating up girlfriend

» **Judge rules defendant guilty of 2 charges, dismissed others**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man facing charges of deliberately running over his girlfriend with a car has been found guilty on two lesser offenses but was found not guilty on the more serious charges.

In a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Mario Muna Reyes guilty of assault and battery and disturbing the peace but cleared him of assault with a dangerous weapon and aggravated assault and battery.

Govendo set the sentencing on Jan. 20, 2011, at 9am and did not act on a request to modify the \$25,000 bail for Reyes pending the sentencing next month.

Reyes' girlfriend, Emiliana R. Angui, was seriously injured after being ran over by a car being driven by Reyes on the night of April 29, 2010. Angui sustained a fractured right collarbone, abrasions, and bruises on the right side of her face and in her hands and abdomen.

During yesterday's hearing, Govendo said he has no reason to doubt that there was continuous slapping on the part of Reyes and that her girlfriend chose to jump off the moving vehicle. "That's how serious it was...and she chose to jump off the moving car because she was

frightened to death."

Reyes, 40, who has a prior conviction for murder, was arrested on May 29, 2010.

During Tuesday's hearing, Angui testified that Reyes—her boyfriend for three years—had intended to seriously harm her, as shown by the bruises and injuries she sustained.

The 36-year-old woman narrated that Reyes was mad because of some telephone numbers on her cell phone, believing that she was texting another man. She denied having any communication with that number. She admitted it was not the first time she was beaten by Reyes.

Angui also testified that despite her pleas for Reyes to bring her to the hospital, Reyes never bothered to do so. The woman was taken to the hospital by Reyes' mother when they returned to his house in Dandan.

According to court documents, the victim and Reyes were driving on As Lito road when he wanted to stop and get illegal drugs ("ice"). He pulled over and asked to use Angui's cell phone but became enraged when he saw several different phone numbers on her cell. The victim said Reyes grabbed her face and hit her on the head. She said he then accelerated the car recklessly causing it to spin out of control.

Fearing for her life, the victim jumped out of the car, but Reyes grabbed her shirt, causing her to go under the car as it was moving.

THIS SATURDAY SABALU FARMERS MARKET

(across MHS Susupe)
Fresh Local Produce
& Local Dishes
6:00am - 11:00am

Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!
from 3pm - 9pm (across Kristo Rai)



Saipan's Most Dependable and Reliable Truck!

TACOMA

SALES EVENT!

ALL TRUCKS ALL ON SALE AT CLEARANCE PRICES!

REGULAR CAB 5SPD
Starting at **\$17,999***

2WD DOUBLE CAB
Starting at **\$23,999***

4X4 ACCESS CAB
Starting at **\$26,999***

4x4 DOUBLE CAB
Starting at **\$28,999***

Sam Kim
Mark Sablan
Liza Taylor

SALE ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2010!



MICROL CORPORATION

Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Telephone: **234-5911** | Fax: **234-6514** | www.microlsaipan.com

*OAC conditions apply. Vehicles not exactly as shown. Not valid with other promotional offers.

TOYOTA

Former cop wants investigator to help prepare defense

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former policeman who is facing charges of selling methamphetamine or "ice" requested the federal court to appoint an investigator to carry out an additional probe so he could mount a complete and proper defense.

Attorney Michael N. Evangelista, court-appointed counsel for Florencio Q. Richards, filed the defendant's motion for court-appointed investigator yesterday at the U.S. District Court.

Evangelista said the requested investigator will assist him in preparing for a jury trial on Feb. 7, 2011.

He said without disclosing the defense's trial strategy, an investigator is needed to assist the defense counsel in additional investigation and that Richards must be provided the opportunity to mount a complete and proper defense for his case.

Richards, who is unable to post bail and remains in custody, is charged in the indictment with count I of conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance; count II for distribution of a controlled substance; count III for carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime; and count IV for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person.

Evangelista said Richards needs an investigator to search for tangible or testamentary evidence from all witnesses in the case and to probe accusations and allegations made against him. This, he said, is necessary to adequately prepare for the defendant's defense.

The requested investigator will be paid with public funds.

Early this month, the federal court granted the request of Richards to have more time to prepare for trial.

The jury trial will now be on

Feb. 7, 2011 at 9am. The original date was yesterday, Dec. 13.

The 32-year-old Richards, and others conspired sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010, to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

During these transactions, he allegedly had a Smith & Wesson 9 mm semi-automatic handgun under the seat of his pickup truck. The CNMI Joint Drug

Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar on July 15, 2010, for alleged trafficking and possession of "ice." The two were inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base at the time, Richards was off-duty.

Richards and Omengkar have pleaded not guilty to the charges filed separately in the Superior Court. In the federal court case, Richards also pleaded not guilty.

USSP Club Friday-12/31 starts @ 11:00pm
LIVE! & Saturday-01/01 starts @ 10:00pm
NEW YEAR WEEKEND PARTY
On Stage
Kaiyo Bedasto, Elway Ikeda, and b2b with Rock Islanders
FREE DOOR ENTRY (Beers & Shots - \$3.00 all night)
Raffle prizes giveaway (CD's) by 1:00am

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC NOTICE

TO ALL DOCOMO PACIFIC CDMA SUBSCRIBERS

DOCOMO PACIFIC'S GSM NETWORK
UPGRADES IN THE CNMI WILL BE COMPLETED
ON DECEMBER 31ST, 2010.

ALL CDMA SERVICES WILL BE DISCONTINUED
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1ST, 2011 AT 12:00AM

TO AVOID SERVICE INTERRUPTION, PLEASE
SWITCH TO DOCOMO PACIFIC'S OPTIMIZED
GSM SERVICE NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF
BUSINESS THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31ST, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
PLEASE VISIT OUR GUALO RAI LOCATION
TODAY OR CALL 483-CARE (2273)

Fenny Hair Cut Beauty Parlor
Eyelash Extension \$10 • Hair extension 50¢ each
Free Hot Oil for every Perm Service
UV Gel Nail Sculpture Nail Vitreous Nail **50% OFF**
for 1 month only Starts Nov. 25-Dec. 25
Tel.: 235-0393 • Open Daily: 10:00am - 10:00pm
Located across Friendship Ext.

Galaxy PRO New Year's Clearance Sale! 25% OFF ACCESSORIES
December 31, 2010 - January 1, 2011

BlackBerry Storm2 "Unlocked" GSM / CDMA \$299	Nokia X3-02 W/F "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$259	BlackBerry Tour "Unlocked" GSM / CDMA \$229	LG Cookie Fresh "Unlocked" GSM-Brand New \$149	LG Cookie Lite "Unlocked" GSM-Brand New \$139	Samsung Champ "Unlocked" GSM-Brand New \$129	Samsung Beat "Unlocked" GSM-Brand New \$99
Samsung A707 "Unlocked" GSM-Brand New \$89	Samsung Reclaim "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$159	Sonyo Incoigno "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$129	Motorola Rizr "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$99	LG Remarq "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$99	LG Accolade "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$59	Samsung Smooth "Unlocked" CDMA-Brand New \$49

San Jose (Tel. No. 234-2776) also in Rialto Square Monday-Friday 11am-5pm Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-5pm
Garapan (Tel. No. 233-2776) also in Rialto Square Monday-Friday 11am-5pm Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 10am-5pm
It's your call. Make it fun!
*Check out our website for monthly deals on Galaxy Phones and Accessories

Live the Fiesta Way!

Fiesta New Year's Countdown!

December 31, 2010
New Year's Eve Countdown Party

- Friday 6:30pm to 12:30am
SOUTH POOLSIDE
New Years Eve Dinner with Joyful Dinner Show
Price: \$75.00 per Adult / \$35.00 per Child
(Include party favors)
- Countdown Party Only
10:00pm to 12:30am
\$30.00 per person
With Free flow of Champagne / Wine / Beer / Juice / Soda
(Include party favors)

January 1, 2011
New Year's Day Brunch @ World Cafe'

- Saturday 11am to 2pm
\$30 per adult / \$15.00 per child
WORLD CAFE'



*** Local Resident and VIP Card discount applies**
For Reservations and Inquiries
Please Call 234-6414 ext. 1547 / 1548
or 233-6414

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHolidays Company

DPL to require investor for \$30M condotel to make advance lease payments

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands will require the investor for a new \$30 million, 300-room condotel or condo-hotel to make a one-year advance land lease payment before DPL signs a final land lease agreement.

Kevin International Corp., whose principal owners are engaged in multi-billion architectural and engineering projects in Hong Kong, has

already secured a temporary authorization from DPL to allow it to enter for land clearing a 5-hectare property in San Antonio.

DPL secretary Oscar M. Babauta said DPL is still working on a final land lease agreement with Kevin International, whose officials will be arriving on Saipan early next year to sign a land lease deal.

Kevin International will be leasing the same property where a Korean investor, KSA Corp., previously pro-

posed to build a hotel with villas and condotels. The KSA project did not materialize, resulting in DPL's termination of the public land lease in June 2008.

Babauta said Kevin International expressed interest in paying not only a one-year advance rental, but also up to five years in advance payment.

"That is why I am optimistic about Kevin International's investment. DPL changed its requirements, to make sure that investors have enough money to

pursue their investments," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said DPL, which he joined just this year, will now be more cautious in executing land leases to investors.

Babauta cited DPL's experiences with Neo Gold Wings Paradise and Flame Sako, whose planned investments failed to materialize after executing a land lease with DPL only to end up not paying the leases and abandoning their plans until DPL revoked their land leases this year.

Flame Sako had planned to build a \$60 million to \$80 million hotel on a 109,003-square meter area north of The Palms Resort in San Roque.

Neo Gold Wings, meanwhile, had planned to build an ambitious \$1 billion, six-star hotel casino on a 300-hectare public land on Tinian.

Both investors now owe DPL hundreds of thousands of dollars in unpaid land leases, plus interest and penalties.

PH Consulate to offer Saturday, Sunday services in 2011

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan plans to continue its One-Sunday-A-Month Consular services, with an additional plan of alternating Saturday services for 2011.

Consul General Medardo Macaraig said this is due to the number of Filipinos in the CNMI who have availed of

these weekend consular services.

According to Macaraig, more Filipinos visit their office during the Sunday services.

However, Macaraig said some Filipinos have requested for the Saturday services since their off-days fall on Saturday, prompting them to offer the One-Saturday-A-Month Consular service starting next year.

"As most Filipinos have difficulty

going to the Consulate during weekdays due to their work schedules and in response to the request for Saturday services, the Philippine Consulate General shall be open for regular consular services either one Saturday or one Sunday every month," he said.

The Philippine Consulate General will have the following weekend schedule for the first six months of 2011:

- January 30, Sunday
- February 26, Saturday
- March 20, Sunday
- April 16, Saturday
- May 22, Sunday
- June 25, Saturday

The office will be open to provide

consular services and it will observe its usual office hours from 9am to 4pm without lunch breaks.

For inquiries on any consular service, contact the Philippine Consulate General at 234-1850, fax 234-1849 or email saipanpcg@pticom.com.

CUC

From Page 1

- Division of Youth Services (including child protection units, juvenile probation unit, and emergency shelter);
- Emergency Management Office;
- Department of Public Health (all offices);
- Department of Corrections;
- Juvenile Detention Unit;
- Department of Public Safety;
- Office of Aging;
- Office of the Attorney General (criminal office);
- Developmental Disability Council;
- Public Defender's Office;
- Office of Personnel Management;
- Joeten Kiyu Public Library;
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation;
- Family Support Services;
- Low-Income Energy Assistance Program; and
- Department of Public Works.

The administration also asked CUC yesterday to reconnect power and water services at the Child Care Development Fund Office of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

Charles Warren, CUC's chief financial officer, said the central gov-

ernment made a partial payment yesterday; he refused to disclose the amount paid so far.

"The central government accounts are still in arrears and disconnections will continue. However, the disconnections will be power only, not water. The recent disconnected water accounts will be reconnected," Warren told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Warren said reconnections are ongoing as of yesterday noon.

He said the list of critical offices was provided to CUC yesterday. Besides these, the administration also asked CUC to spare offices with federal funds available for utilities from any power and water disconnections.

Warren earlier said that about 50 government accounts were on CUC's disconnection list but he did not elaborate on this.

'Affected employees remain on leave'

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan said yesterday that the administration is currently working with CUC to come up with a payment arrangement.

"We hope to reach a resolution to this matter in the coming days," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Employees who are stationed in affected offices remain on administrative leave for now and may be assigned to other offices, if necessary.

"Should the disconnection period span longer, the administration has plans to detail the affected employees to other agencies that will remain with power. We're looking into areas that may be in need of additional manpower for the affected employees to take on such temporary assignments," he said.

As for employees whose work involve field responsibilities like Parks and Recreation, DPW roads and grounds, Demapan said these employees will continue to carry out their regular duties and responsibilities.

One of the departments affected by Tuesday's power and water disconnection was the DCCA, which sent home about 90 personnel Tuesday.

DCCA Secretary Melvin Faisao, when contacted yesterday, disclosed that power and water were restored yesterday in many of its offices and majority of personnel were told to report for work.

Five employees from the department's Child Care Development Fund are expected to report for work this morning as reconnections are expected today.

RAPE

From Page 1

In a two-page order issued yesterday, Wiseman also ordered the release of three suspects: Ivan Jones Castro, 33; Joseph C. Camacho Jr., 31; and Alfred P. Hocog, 18.

A fourth suspect, Angel Jess Santos, is detained at the Department of Corrections and now serves as a government witness against the three other suspects.

The Office of the Attorney General, through assistant attorney general Brian D. Gallagher, filed a motion Tuesday to dismiss the case without prejudice while it awaits a report from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. That report reportedly contains forensic evidence related to the case.

The OAG said the report is vital to both parties and that it needs further time to investigate the matter.

Wiseman, in his order, stated that Rule 48(a) of the Commonwealth

Rules of Criminal Procedures provides a mechanism for the government to dismiss charges against a defendant by "leave of the court."

Wiseman said that when the court is satisfied with the reasons advanced for dismissal—reasons that are substantial, supported by a factual basis and are compatible with the public interest—a dismissal is warranted.

'Santos may withdraw plea agreement'

Saipan Tribune learned that Joseph Camacho, the designated counsel for Angel Jess Santos, met with his client at the Department of Corrections yesterday to discuss options regarding the OAG's motion to dismiss the case against his three co-defendants.

Camacho will be meeting with the OAG today to relay his discussion with Santos and his client's decision—whether to seek a withdrawal or stand by the signed plea agreement to cooperate as a government witness.

"We are hopeful that some of the

goodwill that led to the signing of the plea agreement is still there and we can salvage some, if not all, of the provisions of the plea agreement. The key is whether or not the Attorney General's Office will truly pursue the second filing of charges against the three co-defendants. How can Angel Santos testify that he was the 'look out' if the three co-defendants are not even in the case," said Camacho yesterday.

The suspects are accused of kidnapping and raping a 16-year-old girl in Kagman in June. The victim was walking north on a secondary dirt road behind CYC store in Kagman III when the suspects accosted her. Santos claims he was the lookout when the three other suspects raped the girl at Tank Beach.

They were arrested later that month and charged with kidnapping, conspiracy to commit kidnapping, sexual assault in the first degree, conspiracy to commit sexual assault in the first degree, aggravated assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

SAD

From Page 1

Because of the severe cash shortage, the government may—at this time—also be unable to release payroll for priority or so-called "critical" government employees such as doctors, nurses, police officers, fire fighters and corrections officers.

Whether they will get paid on Friday will depend on cash collections and funding availability today and Friday.

Non-critical government employees, which have been having delayed payroll since June this year, will also have to wait longer than usual for their paychecks to be released.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said that, as of yesterday, only federally-funded employees will get their paychecks on time.

Demapan said Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's administration informed all department and activity heads yesterday "that there will be a delay in payroll this week, citing very low cash availability brought about by a severe shortage in cash collections."

"The financial status at this time is far more severe than the previous cases of delayed payroll. At this time, it appears that federally-funded personnel can expect to receive their payroll on time this Friday. As we speak, the administration is currently addressing payroll for critical services in the hopes that they, too, will be able to receive their paychecks this Friday," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The press secretary said the administration hopes to reach a determination regarding payroll for critical service employees as early as today.

"As for non-critical service personnel, payroll disbursement may take longer than the usual Tuesday or Wednesday disbursements in previous cases. We hope to be able to issue another update in the coming days," Demapan added.

Government employees and officials on Capital Hill expressed disappointment with the news of delayed release of paychecks for the last payroll for 2010.

"I was hoping I would get my paycheck so we can celebrate New Year but there's none. It will be a bad and sad New Year for all of us," an employee at the Office of the Governor said.

House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said it's "very, very disturbing to note that it has come to a point when even critical services will be affected."

"Once you start missing payroll

for critical employees, then you start jeopardizing critical services, and we're not only talking about the hospital services, but police and other services too," he said.

Benavente, whose proposal to hold an economic summit got thumbed down, said the Fitial administration has yet to come up with a plan on how to avoid payless paydays and another partial government shutdown.

"I understand the revenue collection is low but you can't just sit back and let things happen. We have lots of government programs that are not necessary that need to be reduced, and yet there is no proposal from the administration," he said.

A senator said one of the reasons why senators agreed to the 16-hour cut that the Fitial administration and House were pushing for during the budget deliberations was to avoid payless paydays, but even a 64-hour cut has proven to be not enough for the government to meet payroll on time.

"It would be very difficult for our people to endure," he said.

A House member said he's disappointed to know that government employees will be celebrating the holidays without income.

Another lawmaker said his primary concern is the families of government employees who need their paychecks to pay their bills.

"School is out and expenses will naturally increase for every household whose children are at home for the holidays. That said, critical employees need to be paid, period. By not paying critical employees will lead to a demoralizing effect and eventual reduction in the level of government services, especially relating to health and safety of the public at large... but yet the governor travels," he said.

The press secretary, meanwhile, said that the payroll delay is not necessarily because funding has to be diverted to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"The administration continues to work with CUC to set up payment arrangements for the outstanding billings. However, any actions to be taken still hinges on the availability of funding as the government is currently experiencing a shortage far greater than what was projected," Demapan added.

This will be at least the seventh time that the CNMI government will have a partial or full payless payday since June 2010 because of severe cash shortage. This is also the first in CNMI history that delayed payroll has become a frequent occasion.

High court says Atalig, Yana deserve attorney fees

On Dec. 29, the Supreme Court issued its ruling *In the Matter of the Estate of Angel Malite*, ordering the Superior Court to conduct a hearing on the appropriate amount of attorney fees to be awarded Antonio M. Atalig and Reynaldo O. Yana for work they performed for the Estate of

Angel Malite.

The case arose following a settlement in which the Department of Public Lands paid the Estate of Angel Malite \$3,450,000 for a parcel of land. After the settlement, Atalig and Yana sought \$1,138,500 in attorney fees for their work se-

curing the settlement. After the fees were awarded, heirs of the Malite Estate filed a motion arguing that the fees were unjustified and needed to be returned. In response, Judge Kenneth L. Govendo ordered Atalig and Yana to temporarily return the money to the court pending a final determination on the appropriate fee award. When Atalig and Yana refused, they were held in civil contempt and incarcerated until they complied. The Superior Court subsequently held that Atalig and Yana were not entitled to any attorney fees whatsoever.

On appeal, Atalig and Yana argued that a previous opinion issued by the Supreme Court—which ordered the Superior Court to calculate reasonable

attorney fees—prevented the Superior Court from ordering the attorneys to temporarily return the disputed funds. The Supreme Court disagreed, and held the probate court was permitted to employ commonly used judicial tools, such as ordering disputed fees to be deposited with the court, to carry out Supreme Court orders. The Supreme Court further ruled that when Atalig and Yana failed to comply with the Superior Court's order, the court was permitted to find them in contempt and incarcerate them.

While the Supreme Court did not vacate the Superior Court's order that the fees be temporarily returned, it vacated the court's order denying Atalig and Yana any attorney fees. The Su-

perior Court had denied all fees after finding the attorneys' client billing statements excessive. The Supreme Court held that to determine reasonable attorney fees in the absence of a valid agreement between the attorney and client, a court must consider the factors laid out in Rule 1.5 of the Model Rules of Professional Conduct. Relevant factors include, but are not limited to, the time and labor a case required, the novelty and difficulty of the questions involved, and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly. The Supreme Court found that that lower court had not reviewed the relevant Rule 1.5 factors before denying all fees. On remand, the Superior Court was

ordered to first determine if a valid fee agreement existed between the parties, and if not, to consider all relevant Rule 1.5 factors to calculate the appropriate attorney fee award.

In reaching this decision the High Court rejected Atalig's and Yana's argument that Govendo made comments during lower court proceedings that warranted recusal. The court found the comments were both general and legal in nature, and that Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja therefore did not err by refusing to disqualify Govendo.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *In the Matter of the Estate of Angel Malite*, 2010 MP 20, and can be found at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>. (PR)

Residents to welcome New Year with a bang despite slow economy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite payless paydays and the slow economy, residents will still welcome the New Year with a bang—with firecrackers, that is.

Tina Camacho, a mother of three, said firecrackers have become a part of her family's tradition to welcome the New Year.

"For us, it's more of a joy for the New Year. Despite the economy, we are wishing the New Year to be a better one than the last," the Gualo Rai resident said as she and two of her children bought firecrackers at the Dragon Fireworks on Middle Road yesterday afternoon.

Camacho, however, said the financial difficulties have made her cut down tremendously on her budget for firecrackers—from \$300 to \$400 in previous years to only some \$150 this year.

Another mother, from Kolblerville, said they are also spending less for firecrackers this year because of financial difficulties.

With the supervision of at least one adult member of his family, Jun Santos, 14, of Kolblerville, bought some \$10 worth of firecrackers at the

Dragon Fireworks in Chalan Kanoa yesterday afternoon.

He said he expects to buy more firecrackers as New Year's Eve draws near.

"Every year, we do this. It's fun," he said, adding that he has been careful when lighting firecrackers.

Another 12-year-old boy from San Vicente who bought a little under \$30 worth of firecrackers also at the Dragon Fireworks in Chalan Kanoa said it is his first time to buy these items.

For others, lighting up firecrackers and fireworks are believed to scare away evil spirits and bring in prosperity in the New Year.

Among the most saleable firecrackers are the so-called water dynamites which can be bought at \$2.50 a pack.

Firecrackers on sale on Saipan come in different sizes, prices, strengths and styles. Others can be bought for \$1.50, while others can go as high as hundreds of dollars.

The Department of Public Safety is also reminding the community to observe safety precautions when lighting up fireworks and firecrackers as they celebrate the New Year.

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

Philippine Airlines
WITH US, YOU'RE ALWAYS NO. 1
www.philippineairlines.com

120 FREE! Roundtrip Tickets to the Philippines

Just for being a loyal IT&E Customer

Qualifying is EASY!

Prepaid subscribers who are ACTIVE for 6 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS
Prepaid subscribers who are enrolled in ON-LINE BILLING and CURRENT with their account

Listen to Power 99 from Saipan or Power 98 from Guam at 2:00pm (December 30, 2010).
Answer your cellphone between 1pm-5pm on Friday and win up to \$100,000.

**Some conditions apply - 10 Lucky winners will be chosen.*

12th Drawing: December 30th, 2010

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483)
Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599

(I) www.ite.net • (T) (671) 922-4ITE (4483)
(E) customercare@itehq.net • www.wap.itepcs.net

Chalan LauLau Customer Care Ofc.
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza)

Harmon Industrial Park • Guam Premier Outlet
Micronesia Mall • Macheche Plaza
Agana Shopping Center

IT&E
Life in Motion

Children spend Christmas break in sports, arts camps

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 50 students participated in the sports and art programs offered by the Division of Youth Services in collaboration with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

The free programs, held at the Dandan Baseball Field on Dec. 27 to 30, from 8:30am to 12:30pm, were available to students ages 6 to 13 years old.

Volunteer program coordinator Thelma Torres Reyes said they originally offered the programs to the Dandan community but decided to extend it not only to neighboring San Vicente village but to all children who wanted to do something worthwhile during their Christmas break.

"We wanted to spread the joy of Christmas with the youth since they are away from school

for one week," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Participants took part in different activities like painting, bead making, and playing different sports activities such as softball, dodge ball, and soccer.

For their painting activity, the participants painted the 10 drum cans donated by the Northern Islands Mayor's Office. The painted drums will be distributed to the donor and various elementary schools on island, said Reyes.

According to Reyes, the sports and art programs are part of their prevention efforts among the CNMI youth. "These programs also help households, especially in this economic situation. By providing activities to students who are on Christmas vacation, we help alleviate some of the stress from the parents," she said.



Participants and organizers of the free sports and art programs of the Division of Youth Services, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, pose for a group photo at the Dandan Baseball Field yesterday morning.

Reyes believes that the students actually co-mingled and showed good teamwork. They built friendships and showed respect among themselves," she explained.

Community outreach program coordinator Alex Olopai disclosed that this was the first time they held a program during Christmas break. "It's a good turnout that we plan to do it every Christmas," he added.

Arts in Education coordinator Parker Yobei encouraged other artists to volunteer their talent or resources in these programs that benefit the youth.

Local painter Luis Ogo said volunteering his time to teach these talented students is his

way of giving back to the community. "Through this program, I can give them something to think about, if they could make art their hobby or even a career. I would volunteer again for these kids," he said.

Happy campers

"I like to play baseball and dodge ball," said fourth grader Patricia Atalig of San Antonio Elementary School when asked why she joined the program.

For 11-year old Mia Sablan of Garapan Elementary School, she would rather draw and paint than just stay at home for the holidays.

Chacha Oceanview Junior

High School student Jocielyn Lacay said she wanted to enjoy her Christmas vacation. "My favorite activity is bead making," said Lacay, adding that she made three necklaces and a bracelet during the program.

Twelve year old Jobe Reyes of San Vicente Elementary School said he wanted to be healthy by playing baseball, his favorite sport.

"Other kids should come and join these activities and not get in trouble at home," he said.

Reyes said they will hand certificates of participation to the students today. There will also be presentations from several DYS partners, she added.



Your Year End Dinner At The 360 Revolving Restaurant

Lemon Shrimp And Cured Salmon With Avocado

Mousseline Of Escargots With Anisette And Croutons

*Pan-Fried Basa Fillet With Ginger, Garlic,
Coconut Wild Rice And Spinach*

*CAB® Fillet Mignon With Bearnaise And Pepper Sauce,
Double Baked Potato, Vegetables*

"Baked Alaska" With Cognac

\$ 60.00

*Mousseline Of Escargots With
Anisette And Croutons*

*Caesar Salad With Bacon Strips
And Reggiano Cheese*

*CAB® NY Striploin In Bacon,
Salpicon Of Peppers And
Mushrooms, Baked Potato
Or Rice, Vegetables*

*360 Chocolate Mousse
With Strawberries*

\$ 40.00

JOIN US WITH
OUR VERY OWN
"TAPAS BAR"
FROM 10PM TO MIDNIGHT
FOR ONLY \$10.00 AND
HAPPY HOUR PRICES
ALL NIGHT.

STAY WITH US TO VIEW THE
FIREWORKS ON ISLAND
WITH THE BEST VIEW OF ALL.

OPEN DINNER SERVICE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 2
FROM 5:00PM TO 10:00PM.

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Buffet

December 31st, 2010 6:00pm - 9:30pm
at ARC poolside. all you can eat & drink!!
Adult: \$80.00 Child: \$40.00 (6 to 11 yrs)

entertainment shows
island wear fashion show
dance & music
FISCO prizes!
exciting fireworks show

celebration start at
December 31, 2010 9:30pm

countdown to the 2011

December 31st, 2010 9:30pm - 0:30am
Adult: \$100.00 Child: \$15.00 (6 to 11 yrs)
Included 2 drink coupon per paying guest



For inquiry or reservation please call 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732.



SUPER FRESH MARKET

Customers *First*

SHOP FOR FRESHNESS, QUALITY, & FRIENDLY SERVICE

Weekend Specials

Open 7am-9pm New Year's Eve
and New Year's Day

December 30, 2010-January 6, 2011

Happy New Year from Your Friends at Super Fresh Market!

**CAB BONELESS
RIBEYE STEAK**



\$7.79 per lb.

**CAB RIBEYE
ROAST**



\$7.79 per lb.

**CAB T-BONE
STEAK**



\$6.99 per lb.

CAB PORTERHOUSE



\$6.99 per lb.

**TYSON WHOLE
CHICKEN
FRYER**



\$1.29 per lb.

\$37.99 #30 CS.



**FROZEN
PEELED
TAIL ON
SHRIMP
21/25
2 LB**



\$9.99 per bag

**TYSON CHICKEN
LEG QUARTERS
22LB/CASE**



\$13.99 LIMIT 2 CASE

**US PORK BUTT
ROAST
BONELESS**



\$1.99 per lb.

**FROZEN SAUSAGE
LINKS 200LINKS
10LB BOX**



\$6.99 per box

**RUSSER
SMOKED
VIRGINIA
HAM**



\$5.99 per lb.

BAKESHOP

**FRESH
DONUTS**



\$0.30 each

**CINNAMON
ROLLS**



\$0.49 each

**SF PLAIN
HAMBURGER
BUNS**



\$1.59 per pack

**SF WHITE LOAF
BREAD**



\$1.49 per pack

PRODUCE

POTATOES



\$0.79 per lb.

CUCUMBER



\$0.59 per lb.

**RED DELICIOUS
APPLES**



\$0.99 per lb.

FRESH STRAWBERRIES



\$7.59 per pack

**CELERY
STALKS**



\$1.59 per lb.

US CROWN BROCOLLI



\$2.59 per lb.

**NAPA
CABBAGE**



\$1.29 per lb.

**YELLOW
ONIONS**



\$0.69 per lb.

GROCERY

**GUAM ROSE
CALROSE RICE
20LB BAG**



\$6.99

**ASSORTED
WESTERN FAMILY
SODA 3 LITER**



\$1.99 each

US MEDIUM EGGS



\$1.59 per pack

**ASSORTED ACT II
MICRO POPCORN**



\$1.49 each

**FOX BROOK
CALIFORNIA
WINES
(SHIRAZ, MERLOT,
CHARDONNAY,
CABERNET
SAUVIGNON)**



\$4.99 each

We Accept Food Stamps

WIC Participants
are welcome!

We offer 5% Discount
for Senior Citizens
(on Selected Items Only).

Credit
Cards

Accepted



& Wells Fargo Financial
PACIFIC EXPRESS
Debit Card Service
is now available in the Store.

**WESTERN
UNION** | yes!
money transfer

Available inside the Store.

Offer good until January 6, 2011 while supplies last

We reserve
the rights to
limit quantities.

For more info,
pls. call

322-0430

Email: superfresh@triplejsaipan.com

Ringling of the bells on New Year's Eve

Nanmeido is a non-sectarian temple located at the Sugar King Park in Garapan that is dedicated to the spirits of the U.S. and Japanese soldiers and local people who lost their lives in the Battles of Saipan and Mid-Pacific in 1944. Inside the temple, a large Peace Bell hangs from the ceiling. It was donated as a wish for world peace by the Gifu Buddhist Association of Gifu, Japan in 2006.

»Nanmeido and the Peace Bell

Joya No Kane

Joya No Kane means temple bells that signal the end of the year at midnight on New Year's Eve. It is traditionally rung 108 times. The first 107 times are rung on New Year's Eve and the last time, the 108th time, is rung the moment the New Year arrives.

According to Buddhist belief, the 108 wheels of the temple bells

represent the 108 desires of human beings. When the last wheel sounds, these desires are driven away. Thus, the New Year is greeted in a pure condition.

On New Year's Eve in Japan, people go to the nearby Buddhist temples at midnight and ring the bell, hoping for good health and happiness in the coming year and chasing off the

evil spirits.

Nanmeido observes this tradition by ringing the Hatsu-Mode (first New Year's visit to a Shinto shrine or Buddhist temple). Please take a moment visit Katori-Jinja after the Joya No Kane Service.

Please come join us on Dec. 31, 2010, at 11:45pm, at the Nanmeido (The International House of Prayer) at Sugar King Park. Please carry a flashlight. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Rota beaches get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Rota's recreational beaches and storm water drainage this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

The DEQ analyzed a total of 12 samples

from Rota this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)

Jury selection cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors for panels "KS" that the jury selections scheduled for Jan. 3, 2011, at 8:30am in courtroom 223A are hereby cancelled until further notice. For further information, contact Dora SN. Decena, jury coordinator

at telephone 236-9765. (PR)

Cervical Cancer Awareness Month proclamation on Dec. 30

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, and today, Dec. 30, there will be a proclamation signing at 9:30am at the Saipan Mayor's Office. For more information, contact Kimberly Sablan of the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program at 236-8728. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 30, 1998

Students shaken by financial crisis

As student representative to the Board of Education, Merced Ada knows that the current financial crisis experienced by the Public School System and all the agencies is creating fears among students. "I think the students are as scared as the teachers. It's kind of sad on the part of the students because it takes a crisis for them to see what's going on," she told Saipan Tribune. Ada said she does not believe that PSS has been given priority, arguing that the school system was underfunded even before the austerity program began. She said: "The PSS has been notorious for not getting enough supplies. Yes, we have the classrooms, but we don't have enough books. PSS never had enough traditionally. We just hope that this will not move us backward."

Finance seeks to curb spending abuse

The Department of Finance has drawn up a package of proposed policies that will cover reimbursements for expenses incurred by government officials in fresh attempts to curb abuse of representation allowance that was prevalent in the past. The official representation policies and procedures were in response to the recommendation of the Office of the Public Auditor which noted abuses on approval and documentation of "official representation" expenditures in the case of former finance secretary Antonio R. Cabrera. In a recent OPA report, Cabrera was held liable for mishandling over \$100,000 in public funds that covered questionable travel advances and reimbursements of official representation from 1995 to 1997.

Dec. 30, 1999

DPS draws up security plan for New Year's celebration

The Department of Public Safety yesterday eased fears of the public that its communication system will be knocked down by the millennium computer glitch during the crossover thus affecting its response to emergency situations. Clyde Norita, chief of office for special services of the department, said telecommunications experts are almost done with their work in ensuring that the 911 system does not malfunction during the New Year's Day revelry. "We have been assured by the Y2K Task Force and Motorola that the repeater will not fail us," Norita said.

Court junks complaint vs DOLI memo

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan has junked a complaint filed by a private individual questioning the decision by Labor and Immigration Sec. Mark D. Zachares to forbid non-attorneys from representing persons and individuals at DOLI hearings. In a ruling issued the other day, Judge Manibusan granted the motion by the Attorney General's Office to dismiss such an action, noting that the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. Plaintiff John B. Joyner petitioned the court to enlarge time for his appeal against Zachares' memorandum prohibiting non-attorneys at labor and immigration hearings.

Dec. 30, 2002

'Fast-track retirement system overhaul'

With the pending legislative initiative to overhaul the CNMI's retirement system, some retirees are pinning hopes that the measure would improve access to benefits. But Edwin Fujihira, a government retiree, said the Legislature should act on the measure swiftly. "If it's going to work, then yes," he said, in support of the legislative initiative known as the Retirement Security Act. The measure seeks to ensure that there is funding to back up the dole out of benefits, although it wants to revisit the entire retirement benefit package at the same time. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider earlier disclosed that the measure is among the priorities in the coming year. Over 3,000 retirees and their estimated 12,000 dependents rely heavily on retirement pensions.

BOE: Tinian High project mess not settled

The Board of Education is now holding talks with the Attorney General's Office to finally resolve the long-standing mess involving the Tinian High School project. "This problem has been there for almost a decade now," said BOE chairman Herman T. Guerrero, who said he and other BOE members talked with an AGO representative on the issue last Friday. "The AG is the attorney on record tasked to represent [Public School System] in litigation such as this," he added. The PSS and private contractor Guerrero Brothers entered into a contract for the construction of Tinian High School in October 1993.



New Year Countdown to 2011

HOLD'EM POKER TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 7:00P.M.

Entry Fee: \$100 + \$10

Limited to 50 seats + alternates only!

REGISTRATION OPEN NOW! HURRY! BE FAST ONLY FEW SEATS AVAILABLE!



Enjoy these games in our latest Electronic Gaming Machines!

For our Off-island Guests, we offer

"Room & Airfare Packages"

\$75/person for Double Occupancy Room
\$100 for Single Occupancy Room

Join Us also at

"My Place"

for the

NEW YEAR COUNTDOWN

For further information, please call VIP Services at (670) 328-2285



SAIPAN / TINIAN CHARTER AVAILABLE 24/7

DISCOVERY FLIGHTS • FLIGHT SEEING TOURS

For inquiries please call (670) 433-9998 / (671) 898-3456

or visit www.starmarianasair.com

NMC board names new presidential search committee members

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents announced yesterday the composition of the new Presidential Search Committee that will select the next president of the college. The committee is composed of individuals with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

The members of the new Presidential Search Committee are:

■ David Sablan, president, Century Insurance Co.

■ John Oliver Gonzales, executive director, Joeten-Kiyu Library

■ Jesus Elameto, retiree and former PSS administrator

■ Juanita Mendiola, former Tinian Municipal Council chairperson

■ Barbara Merfalen, dean, NMC Academic Programs and Services

■ Antonio Tipples, president, Associated Students of the Northern Marianas College

The committee will be chaired by regent Andrew Orsini. The committee has been tasked with helping screen candidates by interviewing them and recommending a short list to the Board of Regents, which will make the final selection.

"We are grateful for the dedication and commitment that the committee members have pledged to secure the best applicants for this important position," said board chair Maria "Paz" Younis.

The search process will be aided by the Association of Community College Trustees, a national nonprofit educational association that has assisted numerous other colleges and universities with their search for a CEO/president.

"Already, a local and national search is ongoing to recruit qualified candidates," said Younis. "There's a lot of work ahead of us, but finding and hiring a president continues to be the board's priority and we will move as expeditiously as possible to accomplish this."

In its regular meeting last week, the board adopted a resolution that guides the search process. The resolution states that

the process of hiring a president should be "inclusive, dignified, fair, transparent, and consistent with applicable Board policies and federal and local laws."

The resolution also states that "while the selection and hiring of a new president must occur in the most transparent manner, it is also imperative that the board take into consideration that certain information must remain confidential to protect the privacy of the applicants and the integrity of the selection process."

To view the presidential vacancy announcement or for more information about the presidential search, visit www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Fee waivers for NMC info session participants

Individuals who participate in the Northern Marianas College's free information session will qualify to receive fee waivers for the upcoming spring 2011 semester—a savings of about \$75.

The event will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011, in Room D-1 at the As Terlaje campus from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend this event to meet and speak with faculty and staff from the college's different degree and certificate programs.

Counseling, financial aid, admissions, and other NMC staff will also be on hand to answer questions and to assist in the admissions and financial aid process.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including bachelor of science degrees in education (emphasis on elementary education, early

childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The information session is open to everyone, including high school students and graduates, and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC.

For more information, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 ext. 1537, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Public library extends closure for inventory; normal hours by Jan. 5

Due to its ongoing inventory, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will remain closed for the rest of the week.

The public library had said last week it will be closed yesterday to carry out a long-overdue inventory but information technology coordinator Roy Rechebei said the closure would be extended to today and tomorrow.

The library will resume normal operations on Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2011.

Rechebei told Saipan Tribune yesterday that the inventory of all library materials, from books to multimedia, is almost done but they need to correct in their system the anticipated discrepancies in materials that they encountered.

countered.

"These discrepancies are usually at a smaller degree but, without a yearly routine inventory, may build up over time. This was expected and in order to ensure minimal problems during operational hours it is important to correct this after inventory," he said.

Rechebei earlier said that doing an inventory should be an uninterrupted process, requiring them to shut down the facility for a couple of days.

Library patrons that have book return due dates today or tomorrow may return the books on Jan. 5. Late fees will be waived for these borrowers.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Belated happy 1st birthday to Jener Franz O. Pineda, who celebrated his special day on Dec. 28, 2010. We're so glad and thankful that God gave us a son like you. No matter how many birthdays come and go, you'll always be loved and cherished. We love you so much Jef! Love, Daddy Jhey, Mommy Fran And Kuya JP.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The public library will also be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1, for New Year's Day. (Clarissa David)



Northern Marianas College

PRESIDENT

Updated Dec. 23, 2010

The Northern Marianas College is currently accepting applications for the position of President. The President of the Northern Marianas College serves as the chief executive officer for the Board of Regents and oversees a multi-campus college system located in three separate islands (Saipan, main campus; Rota and Tinian). The President will report to the Board of Regents and will be expected to carry out the mission of the College:

The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful post secondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, post secondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth.

Minimum Qualifications:

Master's degree from a U.S. accredited university plus five (5) years of executive level management experience in an institution of higher education or other relevant organization, or a combination of at least five (5) years of executive level management including post-secondary education teaching experience; experience working in a multicultural environment; experience in accreditation process, personnel management, budget development and presentation, strategic planning, and institutional assessment, fundraising, mediation, and team building; and knowledge of federal programs and grants application in higher education.

Preference will be given to applicants that meet or exceed the following:

1. Doctoral degree holders in education administration or related fields from a US accredited institution (other terminal degree holders will be considered); and
2. Five years or more experience in an executive position in higher education administration or related fields; and
3. Three years or more of teaching experience in postsecondary education; and
4. Knowledge of technology used in higher education; and
5. Considerable experience with Asia-Pacific island cultures.

The salary for the position is \$80,000 per annum plus benefits. Applications will be reviewed immediately. Applicants with non-U.S. degrees are responsible for providing an official evaluation of their degrees to determine U.S. equivalency.

Applicants should include a cover letter, curriculum vitae, and references. **The target date for applications is January 15, 2011** - Please submit application immediately. Complete application packages and documents may be sent electronically to searches@acct.org and a paper copy must also be mailed to:

Dr. Narcisa Polonio, Vice President
Association of Community Colleges Trustees
1233 20th Street, NW, Suite 301
Washington, DC 20036

For additional information, nominations or confidential inquiries contact Dr. Narcisa Polonio, ACCT, Vice President for Education, Research and Board Leadership Services, 202-276-1983 (mobile) or npolonio@acct.org

For more information about this position and about NMC, visit www.nmcnet.edu or www.acct.org



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-11-016

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF OFFICE SUPPLIES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Supply and Delivery of Office Supplies for the CUC Saipan, Tinian and Rota Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package may be picked-up at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Seven (7) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-11-016, Supply & Delivery of Office Supplies", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **January 21, 2011 at 10:00 AM, (ChST)** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the goods, based on bids for "Commodity Groups"

The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. Bid award per commodity group will be given to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder whose bid is responsive to all specification and requirements.

Bidders will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) local time on **Friday, January 14, 2011** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email - msablan@cucgov.net with a copy to Mr. Charles Warren, Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.net and Ms. Janina Mika Muna, Admin. Support Assistant, Procurement & Supply - mika_muna@cucgov.net.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 310Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Weaning ourselves from a China import

An integral part of that cellphone you can't live without is neodymium, a rare earth mineral used in magnets for computers, audio speakers and those ubiquitous phones. Holmium, another mineral, has the greatest magnetic strength of any element and is used in medical and dental lasers.

Truth is, an amazing number of technologies and military weaponry rely on a group of 15 rare earth minerals, most of them with atomic numbers 57 through 71 on the periodic table. They are especially important components of green technology products—energy-saving light bulbs, wind turbines, Toyota's gas-saving Prius hybrid, to name a few. They also figure in the manufacture of some military and national-security hardware.

In other words, these elements are important to the future of the United States. And where does the United States get most of its rare earth minerals these days? You guessed it: China. That could spell trouble for U.S. manufacturers in the not-too-distant future, according to a new U.S. Department of Energy report.

As recently as 1990, the United States mined its own "rare earths," as the elements are called. But mining can seriously damage the environment, and the United States gradually closed its mines. Now, we are more than 90-percent dependent on rare earths imported from China or from countries that get these materials from China.

The DOE has wisely, if belatedly, launched efforts to diversify the U.S. supply of these elements and ensure that the country will have substantial stockpiles as new technology finds more uses for them. One mine in California plans to re-open in 2012, a good sign. And many of these elements can be recycled (just think about all those obsolete cellphones you've sent to Mount Trashmore), which the DOE is promoting. It is also investing in research to develop viable substitutes.

There is some urgency because this year China began to limit its rare earth exports. Now that it has cornered the world market, it also has slapped higher export tariffs on some minerals while reducing taxes for its domestic rare earth users. One result of this is that more clean-energy technology companies are moving operations to China to save costs. For example, rare earths are used to make most wind turbines—and China recently cornered the global market on that industry.

None of this bodes well for the U.S. economy or for growing its manufacturing sector, therefore creating new jobs. The DOE says that it could take the United States 15 years to develop enough other sources of rare earth minerals to wean itself away from China. Large mineral deposits have been found in Australia—good news for us.

Ironically, rare earth minerals aren't rare. They are widely distributed in the Earth's crust, but they can be difficult to extract in profitable quantities, and extraction is expensive. Also, there are those environmental concerns. Yet, the United States must end its rare-earth reliance on China even as it expands the development and manufacturing of clean-energy products that require them.

It's worth noting that the DOE calls these minerals "strategic materials." Exactly—they are strategic to our economy and to our national security. We can't afford to continue relying on China as our major source for them.

(c) 2010, The Miami Herald



On Route 66

Bill Stewart once observed that we often claim "time passes," but wondered if in fact, time just stayed put and we pass. I'll leave it to Stephen William Hawking to ruminate on the history of time. Starting my 66th year 2010, I am very clear that I am passing!

Route 66 the TV series set in the famed highway between Los Angeles and Chicago had ended by the time I made it to the U.S. in the summer of '65, the year of the Watts riot and a year after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. Not enamored with the Chevy Corvette since I grew up on the Philippines' horse-drawn *carretela*, the mystique of Route 66 was foreign to me. But then, I was a foreigner in a foreign country.

I did not think so in the beginning. Born shortly before the United States granted the Philippines its independence, I chose to look at myself early on as a U.S. national who was deprived of an option to become a U.S. citizen by virtue of Uncle Sam turning over the reins of government to folks of the same or lighter skin tone as mine without my consent. I did not, however, join the Marcos-approved U.S. Statehood Movement since I was already a U.S. immigrant by then, but also, the movement was not about reclaiming a lost right but about "begging" to be taken in from the magnanimity of Uncle Sam's heart.

Proud Manuel L. Quezon, President of the Philippine Commonwealth and one of the privileged fair-skinned guys, died exactly a year before I was born. He is famous for saying: "I would rather have a country run like hell by Filipinos than a country run like heaven by the Americans, because however bad a Filipino government might be, we can always change it." He has been accurate on all accounts so far! The country has been run like hell, and TG, we've always managed to change, at least, those at the helm.

I came to the United States thinking that I was well informed about America, its history and its people, through the literature from the United States Information Service and the broadcasts from Voice of America. ("This is the evening news, in special English," was what I mimicked to learn English.) It turned out that I had a rude awakening, on the civil rights' front, and on the excruciating ethical dilemma in the debacle (my view) that was the Vietnam War. At 20, rather a late time to lose one's innocence, it was a time of radical shaking of the foundations, with personal and social paradigm shifts occurring at tectonic and volcanic proportions.

First of August this year began the first day of my 66th year journey of biological existence. It was spent covering the Manhattan Project symposium organized on Tinian to commemorate Little Boy and the Fat Man's dropping over the skies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Little Boy was first assembled on the hour I was born, a piece of trivia learned through an exhibit prepared by local historian Don Farrell. It has since become a part of my personal repertoire where I relate that my twin brother is a real instrument of mass destruction, and I should be forgiven my inane eccentricities and weird quirks

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section



when they are evident, even of my bad habits when they visibly occur, for compared to my sibling, I am a benign menace!

In the tradition of the Hans *et al* in the land of the Yangtze and the Huang He rivers, 66 is one mighty important number. Ancient Chinese numerology finds six as the perfect number, doubly lucky when repeated. *Liu* (6) is the number for *yin* in yin-yang, and the Yin dynasty was also the Shang Dynasty, the first to organize the nation before the Qin firmly united fractious kingdoms; China's name come from the Qin. (There are 66 books in the Protestant version of the Bible, 66 chapters in the book of Isaiah; 666 is also the sign of the devil. Oooops. OK. It works both ways.)

Filipino Jose Rizal (Malay *tatay* - Pa, Zhongguo *niang* - Ma) was executed in 1896 today by the Spanish government, with not a few favorable ecclesiastical nods at the time. He referred to them as "corrupt friars and bad government." Spain made a martyr out of a serious and charming 35-year old dilettante, who, not unlike the legendary Don Juan, though mightier with the pen but equally accomplished with the sword, left his women (nine had been identified though a "couple of dozen" remains the mythological magic number) feeling loved and pining to have him return. Brokenhearted over cousin sweetheart Leonor who married a Brit on her mother's wishes (might have been some consideration of an English equivalent of a green card at the time), he immortalized her in the character of Maria Clara of his *Noli Me Tangere* novel.

Ironically, the RC K of C annually commemorates his martyrdom and even has a webpage titled *Jose Rizal and Martyrdom 66!* That's how we dragged Lolo Jose into the picture this time; our identity as brown American made him our early exemplar, being the U.S. approved national hero! Lacking of his graceful artistry, polished wit, and disciplined intellect, we, nevertheless, have enough sense to avoid snuffing our candle before a firing squad, and in our fumbling way, have sufficient testosterone to approximate his passion.

On Route 66, we are more than halfway there, literally and metaphorically. And when we kick dust 20 years hence, we will know as we have known a while, and as Jose knew only too well as well, that it is the journey that matters, and only secondarily, the destination. Rizal acquitted himself with his writing; mayhap we can learn to acquit ourselves with ours. Time stands still; I am passing, and begging your pardon, but proudly. Let's call out ten-four on 2010!

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Surviving 2011

About this time each year, individuals make a self-assessment to evaluate how the year turned out for them and what they've accomplished. Then goals or resolutions are made to start the new year off right with greater hope and prosperity. We should try to better our situation, no matter what the circumstances; otherwise, we end up sinking in the pit of despair. However, the sinking economy doesn't give much hope for better times ahead.

I'd like to present a plan to help make it through the year with some dignity. There are many areas of your life that you should evaluate, such as your relationships, health, intellectual development, and spirituality, but I'm going to focus on the financial aspect of your life, and what can be done to get better control of your money.

The first step is to determine how much and where your money is being spent. Other than fixed or large expenses such as rent or utilities, it's a guess for most people as to how much is spent on gas, food, entertainment, etc. If you don't know the exact amount, take an educated guess and then total the amount to see if it's close to what you're actually spending. You will need to start keeping your receipts or recording your expenses in the future to get a better estimate of your spending pattern in specific categories.

Next, prepare a budget to determine how much you should be spending in various categories in order to live within your means or even start saving some money. Look at the expense categories you've created and organize them into four major expense areas: 1) Fixed and needed expenses such as rent and insurance; 2) Fixed and wanted expenses such as cable TV; 3) Variable and needed expenses such as food, gas, and utilities; and 4) Variable and wanted expenses such as entertainment, gifts, and vacations. In this last area, you should also include "fun" (I'll explain later), and "other" as a category for all those expenses that don't fit anywhere else.

Once you have your expenses listed under these four major areas, it is easier to see how and where you can start cutting your expenses. Fixed and needed expenses are difficult to reduce or eliminate, but you can still do some things such as moving to a place with lower rent or finding another insurance company with a lower rate. Fixed and wanted expenses may possibly be eliminated. Yes, you can live without cable.

The next two categories are where you can start seeing greater savings. Your variable and needed expenses can be reduced by planning your food purchases and taking advantage of sales, planning your driving to accomplish as much as possible on one trip, hanging your clothes instead of using the dryer, etc. In the variable and wanted category you can reduce or eliminate most of the expenses in each category by eating out less, taking a less expensive vacation or waiting to go next year.

By looking at all your expenses and examining where to save, you should be able to live within your budget and find some extra money to accelerate your debt payment. Debt can strangle your financial security if you do not learn to master it. Examine all of your loans and the interest payments and put the extra money you've saved each month to help pay off the debt with the highest interest rate. Credit cards usually have the highest interest and require a low monthly payment that keeps you paying for as long as possible. If you've maxed out your credit limit and are paying extra fees, you may want to get a low-interest personal loan to pay off the credit card. The bank will usually want you to surrender the card, but if they don't, put the card in a secure place and don't be tempted to use it again.

Once you've retired one loan payment, you will use the extra money from the paid loan so you can accelerate the payment of the loan with the next highest interest rate. By successively doing this with all your loans, you will get out of debt a lot faster than you could by making minimum monthly payments.

Now, with all your debts paid, you should have a large sum of money left over at the end of each month. The next step is to put most of this money into a savings plan. There are many different ways you can save your money. Usually, the higher the interest rate, the higher the risk. Putting it into a bank savings account is usually the safest, but also has the lowest interest rate, which is below the rate of inflation and will not give you much of a return. Banks use your money to make money by putting it into high interest investments and activities that will earn them a greater return on their investment, so follow their example and be smarter with your money.

Once you start investing, you should never take the money out. Your goal is to take advantage of compound interest so that your savings will continue to grow at an exponential rate. If you're con-

By **RIK VILLEGAS**

Rik is a business solutions advisor and instructor at Northern Marianas College. He can be contacted at RikVillegas@gmail.com, and you can comment on this article at <http://rikv.blogspot.com>.



cerned about the temptation to raid your savings or worried that relatives will ask you for a "loan," then start an Individual Retirement Account, or some investment that makes it difficult to take the money out at any time. When you do spend money outside of your budget, it should be on things that have a potential to increase your income or increase in value over time.

I know you may see the logic in this process, but where is the fun? Who wants to live like a miser so you can have some money when you're older? Well, there are a lot of people who are older and find that they don't have the money they need to live on, so this plan can help you avoid it. As for the fun part, you can set up a category in the "variable and want" section that is labeled "fun" or "mad money." This is an amount you budget (small at first, but becomes larger as you pay off your debts) and that allows you to spend money for fun things, or when you go "mad" on a shopping spree. You'll have the money in your account to spend without experiencing the guilt afterwards.

Also, if you have some things you want to purchase, don't go into debt to buy them. Make a list, prioritize the items, find the best price, and then set up a category in your budget that saves money to pay cash for these items. You need more patience to do this, but if it's done right, you'll usually get the things on your list in a relatively short period of time.

One of the easiest things to do is to spend money, but one of the most difficult things is to save it. The key to success is to develop more disciplined spending habits, record your expenses, and make the commitment to stay with the program. As you see some success, it will be easier to stick with it and not only survive 2011, but possibly thrive in the coming year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A little more restraint, please

Many years ago, before my father died, when he and scores of his generation were lucky if they finished two grades of schooling during the Japanese era here in Saipan, he told me, "When you walk a path, look before you leap." Because I learned this from a person I trusted so much, I thought I'd share it with your readers. It is not necessary or compelling to get educated by a self-proclaimed scholar or intellectual about life and harvesting what good it provides and discarding all the bad things that come along the way. If I were to welcome one's formula and plan about life, I must first conclude with assurance that the guru leading the pack is a trusted persona that would make a difference between what was, what is, and what would be. Trusting in what one says takes more than just normal discourse; it may transcend the promises of the past learned by a people.

Mr. Ambrose Bennett has proudly baptized himself with crystal ball precision on the predictions he made about past events that, if one would have listened to his outlines of social and political order, the CNMI people today would have a different world and we would have had something the way he envisioned reality, that what he had in mind would have churned out a better CNMI.

Well, maybe so, but considering what we know now, what dif-

ference would we have enjoyed or sacrificed had there been a different person on the horse? Were there evidence to the contrary plausible enough to make us convict those in charge for failure to produce a better outcome? So, it would be Mr. Bennett's burden to spell out the details so that we can agree with his indeterminate theory and scholarly lesson plans that would motivate a bunch of indigenous people to unlearn their ways of viewing and assimilating world affairs and trending events in the U.S. Congress and government as a whole.

The question is really whether Mr. Bennett made a good "prediction," or is he merely making a "post-diction" of events. He said what he said, and we certainly do not need any more education than what we have gained and knew from our own observations of current events in the world and the situation in the U.S.

From here on, Mr. Editor, I too would say that your readership would be entertained in many different forms and formats as we continue to breakdown what Mr. Ambrose Bennett is really saying and what the indigenous people of the CNMI would benefit out of these exchanges. But, one thing I do know: In this insecure, individualist, world where nothing is accepted on credit (trust), the individual is constantly forced to prove and

assert himself. Whether as the protagonist of his group or as a self-seeking individualist, he is constantly "on show," he is forever courting the public opinion of his "equals" so that they may pronounce him worthy.

On the other hand, Mr. Bennett had sarcastically put down the indigenous people as a group that is on a lower echelon than his proclaimed scholastic and high level of education. This is the greatest "shame" one could mark a people. We do not need to accept the worth of a person who sees both "honor" and "shame." It is plain hypocrisy, and we could easily check on Mr. Bennett to paint the same picture and indeed throw at him a dose of education about the indigenous people of the CNMI as well. You see, all societies evaluate conduct by comparing it to an ideal standard of action. All societies have their own forms of honor and shame. In this case, "un na mamalao yu, Mr. Ambrose Bennett." This is deeper than a stab in the back, if you can understand that. Mr. Bennett may be an "activist" but he should practice a little more restraint; it is for his own good.

Francisco R. Agulto

Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Look here

I read with interest the recent article that TIGHAR, The International Group for Historical Aircraft Recovery, is once again advertising their theory that Amelia Earhart may have landed on Nikamaroro Island in Kiribati. There are many other theories, including a fellow who claims to have found the correct serial numbered plane and engines in the mountains of what is now called Papua New Guinea. So be it.

Here is a piece of information that might be of interest to all such researchers and others interested in the Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan mystery: Even if others have looked here before, try again looking on Saipan if you are looking for their remains. A very close relative of mine recalled a firsthand account to me several times that seems to have some thread of truth to it. He told me and others that as a young man in 1937

on Saipan, he and a group of others saw a white (American) woman and a male companion taken prisoner by the Japanese authorities. As the two were brought down from the ship and into plain sight, he and the other observers were under armed guard. The Japanese troops ordered all of them to "bow low" and avert their eyes and not look at these "secret" prisoners. Human nature being what it is, he glanced time and time again at this most unusual sighting of two Americans being led under guard on Saipan Island. He saw them clearly.

He was 23 at the time and working at the Japanese seaport (now the CPA Saipan seaport), moving drums of water for a Japanese company that took water from the spring to the port. That dock area is where he saw the two white people under guard. He couldn't say that the Americans he saw were Amelia Earhart and

Fred Noonan. He couldn't say for sure what happened to them. But it makes sense to me that the prisoners, whoever they were, were either killed here on Saipan or sent on to Japan for questioning. If killed here, their remains might still be found. Where did they bury prisoners during that time?

So bring your researchers and your squads of investigators and mystery detectives to Saipan and take a look for the remains here. Wherever they crashed, they would have been brought to the main headquarters of Imperial Japan here on Saipan. Maybe they can put the Earhart mystery to rest once and for all. Or maybe not.






Rep. Stanley McGinnis Torres

17th CNMI Legislature

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Rain	▲84 ▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73 ▼66
Beijing	Sunny	▲29 ▼11
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲62 ▼40
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲79 ▼70
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲43 ▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲58 ▼39
Manila	Thundershowers	▲82 ▼72
Melbourne	Sunny	▲83 ▼53
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	▲76 ▼61
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼27
Osaka	Showers	▲41 ▼35
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲39 ▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲36 ▼26
Rome	Showers	▲54 ▼43
Salem	Showers	▲41 ▼29
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲53 ▼43
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲24 ▼13
Tokyo	Sunny	▲49 ▼36
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲42 ▼34

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
3:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet	
8:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
2:36 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
10:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N171E to 21N158E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of this boundary. Isolated thunderstorms exist in this area west of 140E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 4N142E to 9N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near Koror and Yap and west of Chuuk between 4N and 10N from 130E to 148E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro between 4N and 8N from 157E to 175E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:42 AM	5:56 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	5:57 PM
Saturday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM
Sunday	6:43 AM	5:58 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:35 AM	1:23 PM
Friday	2:34 AM	2:13 PM
Saturday	3:33 AM	3:05 PM
Sunday	4:32 AM	4:01 PM
Monday	5:28 AM	4:57 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
 - Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

- Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
 - *11 on any PTI cellular phone
 - Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Payroll tax cut to boost take-home pay for most workers

» New withholding details now available on IRS.gov

WASHINGTON D.C.—The Internal Revenue Service has released instructions to help employers implement the 2011 cut in payroll taxes, along with new income-tax withholding tables that employers will use during 2011.

Millions of workers will see their take-home pay rise during 2011 because the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 provides a 2 percentage point payroll tax cut for employees, reducing their Social Security tax withholding rate from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent of wages paid. This

reduced Social Security withholding will have no effect on the employee's future Social Security benefits. The new law also maintains the income-tax rates that have been in effect in recent years.

Employers should start using the new withholding tables and reducing the amount of Social Security tax withheld as soon as possible in 2011 but not later than Jan. 31, 2011.

Notice 1036, released on Dec. 17, 2010, contains the percentage method income tax withholding tables, the lower Social Security withholding rate, and related information that most employers

need to implement these changes. Publication 15, (Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide,

containing the extensive wage bracket tables that some employers use, will be available on IRS.gov in a few days.

The IRS recognizes that the late enactment of these changes makes it difficult for many employers to quickly update their withholding systems. For that reason, the agency asks employers to adjust their payroll systems as soon as possible, but not later than Jan. 31, 2011.

For any Social Security tax over withheld during January, employers should make an offsetting adjustment in workers' pay as soon as possible but not later than March 31, 2011.

Employers and payroll companies will handle the withholding changes, so workers typically won't need to take

any additional action, such as filling out a new W-4 withholding form.

As always, however, the IRS urges workers to review their withholding every year and, if necessary, fill out a new W-4 and give it to their employer. For example, individuals and couples with multiple jobs, people who are having children, getting married, getting divorced or buying a home, and those who typically wind up with a balance due or large refund at the end of the year may want to consider submitting revised W-4 forms. Publication 919, How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?, provides more information to workers on making changes to their tax withholding. **(IRS)**

CHamoru documents reference room to be established at MARC

MANGILAO, Guam—Students enrolled in the fall inter-session class of CM102 Elementary Chamorro II class have taken on the task of establishing a CHamoru Language Documents Reference Room that will be housed at the Micronesian Area Research Center of the University of Guam.

For decades, emphasis has been on the acquisition of Spanish language documents that have been housed at the center, said Peter R. Onedera, assistant professor of CHamoru language and instructor during this fall's intercession period.

"Little effort has been done to collect documents too that have been written in the CHamoru language and it is timely that the same consideration be given to archive many works that have gone unnoticed and uncollected through the years," Onedera said.

One chief aim for the project is to make available these written works to researchers who will devote time to the linguistic value of the indigenous language. Additional areas that can benefit are orthography, semantics, word origins, antecedents, grammar, lexicons, and other language areas vital to the survival of CHamoru as a member of the Austronesian family of languages.

Onedera says that this has largely been lacking in the field of academia and the collection of written works in the CHamoru language will prove valuable as many researchers particularly by the organization of CHIN (Chamorro Linguistics International Network) that was established with Dr. Robert Underwood, Rosa Salas Palomo and Onedera as original founding members. The organization is based at the University of Bremen in Germany and includes members from

many countries spanning from Europe to the Caribbean, the United States and Asia.

Individuals, organizations, government agencies, private owners and collectors of CHamoru language memorabilia are invited and encouraged to provide copies that range from personal letters, journals, diaries, essays, compositions, books, poetry, lyrics, music, chants, proverbs, booklets, brochures, annual reports, manuscripts, political pamphlets, posters, project proposals, recipes, medicinal and herbal treatment, historical anecdotes, advertisements, legends, myths, stories, public events, organizational charts, ceremonies, religious activities, family tree information, novena books, bibles, guidebooks and other literary materials that are written in the CHamoru language and can be housed in the reference room at MARC.

This appeal is also extended to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas as well as CHamorus now living in the continental United States and elsewhere around the globe, said Onedera.

Anyone wishing to contact members of the class can e-mail Senot Onedera at onedera@ugam.uog.edu.

Members of the class are Severina Ogo, chairperson; Matthew Taitano Diaz, recorder; Krystal Paco, public relations officer; Sean Sanchez, Joelle Fernandez, Joshua P. Perez, Samantha C. Rivo, Natasha Opena Taitague, Steven John Q. Sablan, Christine K. Claveria, Jahlil Fielder, and Steven Sonido Sablan.

A ribbon cutting ceremony and reception will take place on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011, at 3pm at the Micronesian Area Research Center. **(PR)**

SAEF School congratulates PGFC, NJFL winners

Saipan American Education Foundation School administration, faculty, staff, and parents wish to congratulate the Primary Grades Forensic Conference and National Junior Forensic League winners, as well as all the students who participated in the PGFC, held at Hopwood Junior High School on Dec. 5 and 11, 2010. We are very proud of each student for their hard work in preparing for this competition.

PGFC KINDER 3-2 DIVISION

- 2nd place: Mitziko Yema, Reader's Forum Master's -B
- 3rd place: Alyssa Omampo, Dramatic Interpretation-A
- 3rd place: Jhino Valiente and Li Lumbana, Duo- B
- 4th place: Laurence Raevin Abad, Reader's Forum Master's-B
- 5th place: Jaeden Tan, Dramatic Interpretation-A
- 5th place: Jisha Catherine Pamfilo, Dramatic Interpretation-C
- 5th place: Chelsea Henson,

Dramatic Interpretation-B

- 5th place: Patricia Castillon, Alleena Indalecio, Derrick Sese, Laurence Raevin Abad, Christian Troy Rosimo, Choral Speak-B

PGFC GRADES 3-5 DIVISION

- 1st place: Deidre Rosete, Dramatic Interpretation-B
- 1st place: Kristine Fajardo and Avelyn Alvarez, Duo-B

- 1st place: Caleb Rocher-Light, Impromptu-A

- 1st Place: Xiao-Xiao Qian, Impromptu-B

- 1st place: Deidre Rosete, Reader's Forum Master's -A

- 2nd place: Xiao-Xiao Qian & Natalie Hirshbien, Duo-C

- 3rd place: Stephen Seth Alonzo & Caleb Rocher-Light, Duo-B

- 3rd place: Myka Villegas, Reader's Forum Master's -B

- 4th place: Dondi Ferrer & Mark Anthony Dilay, Duo-C

- 4th place: Stephen Seth Alonzo, Reader's Forum Master's-B

- 5th place: Kristine Fajardo, Reader's Forum Master's -B

NJFL

- 4th place: Sean Benedict Palma, Original Oration

- 3rd place: John Joshua Valiente, Humorous Interpretation



Saipan American Education Foundation School students have their picture taken after participating in the Primary Grades Forensic Conference competition, held at Hopwood Junior High School on Dec. 5, 2010. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

Attn: Contractors, Hardware Stores, Government Agencies, Project Managers

Warehouse Inventory Sale – Everything Must Go. Selling at Less than Landed Cost For BULK Purchases Only While Supplies Last

ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING, HARDWARE ITEMS.

2" CONCRETE NAIL 55 BOXES (50LBS) \$25.00 PER BOX (CALL FOR LOT PRICE)

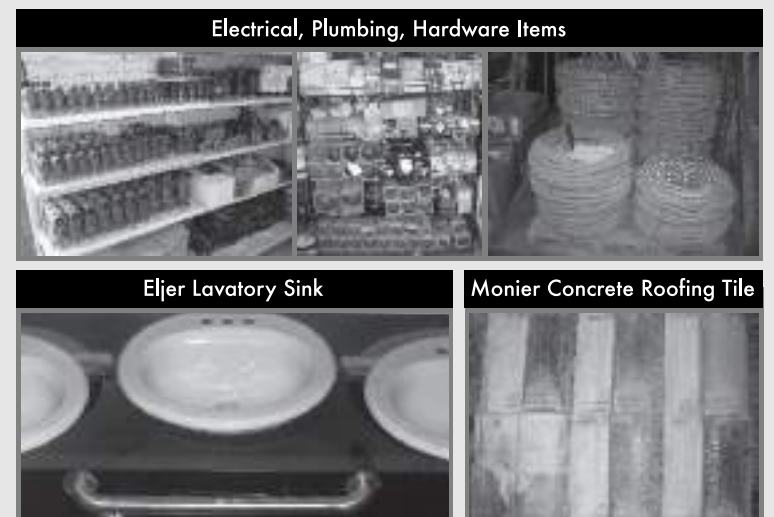
ELJER LAVATORY SINK (PORCELAIN) 20" X 17" - 21 PCS. **ENTIRE LOT FOR \$750.00**
MONIER CONCRETE ROOFING TILE 16 - 1/2" X 13" - 1000 PCS. **ENTIRE LOT FOR \$700.00**

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: BLOCK PLANT MACHINE, RIPPING MACHINE, ALUMINUM TRUCK BEDS, VENDING MACHINES – **MAKE OFFER**

Contact Conrad Jr. at 235-9020, Cell No. 888-8948,
Email conradsbln@gmail.com.

Ask for Inventory List. We can email or deliver hard copy.
Ask for Special Pricing for Entire Lot Purchase.

 **SABLAN
ENTERPRISES, INC.**



Located in Chalan Piao Across from Tapo Shopping.

Business

Businessperson of the Year known on Jan. 8



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will announce its 2010 Businessperson of the Year during its Installation Dinner set for Jan. 8 at the poolside of the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

This year's nominees are Delta Management Corp. of Saipan and Principal of Island Training Solutions president James Arenovski, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Kieran Daly, Triple J Enterprises founder and presi-

dent Robert Jones, and Triple J Saipan, Inc. marketing manager John "Jay" Santos.

Nominees must be residents of the Commonwealth and members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. A panel of past recipients evaluates nominees on the basis of criteria such as community involvement, contributions to the community, support for local workforce, and participation in the Chamber.

Past recipients include Ben Babauta of DFS Saipan, Kathryn Barry of KB Communications, K.J. Kim of Asiana Air-

lines, Juan Guerrero of Juan T. Guerrero & Associates, David M. Sablan, Sr. of Century Insurance, Mark Erwin of Continental Airlines, Jerry Tan of Tan Holdings, Alex Sablan of Saipan Shipping, Jay Jones of Triple J Enterprises, Wendi Herring of Pacific Islands Club, Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan, Joe Ayuyu of McDonald's, Ed Camacho of The Financial & Insurance Services Group, and Efrain Camacho of EFC Engineers & Architects.

The evening will include a multi-course plated dinner, mu-

sical entertainment, and a silent auction—the proceeds of which will benefit the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund and other educational endeavors. Last year, the silent auction raised thousands of dollars, which helped enable the Chamber to award five \$2,000 scholarships to deserving college-bound high school seniors from Saipan.

Entrance to the Installation Dinner is \$50 per person and reservations must be made in advance by calling the Chamber office at 233-7150.

The Chamber has approxi-

mately 150 members, ranging from individuals and small companies to some of the largest companies in the Pacific region. The Chamber regularly appears before and works with government agencies, elected officials, and other business and civic organizations to improve the business climate and economic and civic development of our islands.

The Chamber not only promotes and protects business interests, but also works to promote the civic interests and general health and welfare of

the Commonwealth community as a whole. Aside from serving as an advocate for the business community, the Chamber annually awards college scholarship funds to deserving Commonwealth high school seniors; members have collectively hosted hundreds of visiting military personnel through the Invite-a-Sailor program; and its forums and workshops have educated and informed thousands of members and non-members on diverse topics that affect CNMI businesses, economy, and community. (PR)

After holiday spree, doubts about economy linger

NEW YORK (AP)—Holiday spending surged this year, but Americans still have their doubts about the economy.

With unemployment high and home prices falling in the nation's largest cities, consumer confidence took an unexpected turn for the worse in December.

The decline followed two months of rising optimism. Economists say the economic recovery is likely to be less fitful next year.

"The modest drop in the confidence index is not worrisome," said Omair Sharif, economist at RBS Economics Research. "What matters to us—and to the economy—is that consumers are getting out there and spending. We're looking at the best holiday season for retailers in five years."

Busy malls in December are a big reason economists are less concerned about the latest consumer confidence figures. There's also a slew of data that suggest next year will be brighter. Layoffs are slowing, businesses are investing money in computers and equipment, and the stock market has risen to its highest point in two years.

Still, consumers are not quite convinced.



In this Dec. 14, 2010 file photo, shopper Monica Eaves, with her daughter, Sophia, 2, shop for holiday gifts at The Grove outdoor mall in Los Angeles.

The Conference Board, a private research group, said its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 52.5 in December, down from a revised 54.3 in the November survey. It takes a reading of 90 to indicate a healthy economy. The last time the index was that high was in December 2007, just as the recession began.

Among the 5,000 people surveyed this month, many expressed concerns about jobs. Fewer see them as "plentiful." More described them as "hard to get."

The unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent in November, and only 39,000 net jobs were created that month.

Chris G. Christopher Jr., senior principal economist at IHS Global Insight, cautioned not to read too much into one report. A downward trend over several months would be more worrisome.

Same goes for the holiday sales data, which showed shoppers spending at the fastest pace since 2006. Key areas such as jewelry, home furnishings and consumer electronics are still below pre-recession levels. Many retailers offered discounts on holiday merchandise starting in late October and free shipping to lure buyers back.

Flights make it to NYC, but are stranded on tarmac

NEW YORK (AP)—For some airline passengers who were finally able to make it to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport after a blizzard shut the region down, the travel nightmare started once they landed.

Passengers on two Cathay Pacific flights and a British Airways flight spent hours on the tarmac after landing because there were no gates available for them.

One Cathay Pacific flight that originated in Hong Kong and was diverted to Toronto before landing at JFK sat for more than 10 hours before passengers were allowed off Tuesday morning.

The weary travelers said they were given meager snacks like juice, water, cookies or instant soups. They also said they got conflicting reports about why they could not leave.

"It was so frustrating, just sitting there for hours, waiting for more bad news," said 24-year-old Gigi Godfrey of Belize City, Belize. She was passing through New York after spending Christmas in Thailand and

couldn't remember when she had first boarded a plane.

"I am so tired I don't even know what day yesterday is," she said.

Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the airport operator, said airlines were dispatching planes to the airport without coordinating gate space first.

"So without gate space for them, they have nowhere to go," Coleman said.

The second Cathay Pacific flight—which also originated in Hong Kong and made a stop in Vancouver, British Columbia—sat for about 8 hours after landing at JFK Tuesday. Coleman said Port Authority staff tried to help find a place for that plane to go, even though it's the airline's responsibility.

For passenger Abi Subramanian, an investment banker returning home to New York from a holiday trip in Vancouver, the wait was especially torturous because he was traveling with his 2 1/2-month-old daughter.

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Zoning Board will be held on Thursday, January 06, 2011 at 2:00 PM, Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Bldg., Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
5. Communications
6. Public Comments

B. Reports

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary
3. Treasurer
4. Administrator
5. Committees
6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Hearing (6:00 pm)

1. A request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the construction of institutionalized housing within the new Maturana House of Prayer. Requested by the Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz. This property is described as Tract 2000 in the Navy Hill area. This site is located along Manamko Place and zoned as "Rural".

D. Old Business.

1. Update on Zoning Office Operations.
2. Update on Zoning Law/ Text Amendments (comments).

E. New Business.

F. Executive (Closed) Session

G. Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for Maturana House Of Prayer

The public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this Conditional Use application. The Mercederian Missionaries of Berriz is requesting to construct institutionalized housing within the new Maturana House of Prayer. This property is described as Tract 2000 in the Navy Hill area. This site is located along Manamko Place and zoned as "Rural".

Date: January 06, 2011 (Thursday)

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan.

Above application may be viewed at the Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. Comments on the projects may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may also be submitted in writing to the Zoning Office no later than 4:30 pm, January 05, 2011. Written comments may be submitted via e-mail to staff@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivered to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please contact Douglas Wyatt, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & Division 3 of Title 10 CMC).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Airlines raise fares on many US routes

DALLAS (AP)—Passengers whose travel plans were wrecked this week when thousands of flights were canceled might not want to hear it, but airfares are going up again. Several airlines confirmed Tuesday that they are raising prices on many domestic routes by \$10 one way and \$20 per round trip, even as snowbound passengers remained stranded at New York City-area airports. United, Continental and Delta said they're raising prices effective immediately. Travel website FareCompare.com said American was too, but the airline didn't respond to a request for comment.

Gold passes \$1,400 an ounce

NEW YORK (AP)—Gold prices surged above \$1,400 an ounce Tuesday as a weaker dollar pushed investors into the safe haven of precious metals. Gold also seems to be gaining value based on its own track record for 2010, when global economic instability made it the go-to investment for jittery traders. "Still looking for ONE good reason for" the price increase, analyst Jon Nadler wrote in a note to clients Tuesday. "No trader can own up to one." Nadler, a senior analyst with Kitco Metals Inc., said gold's upward momentum seems to be one of the key drivers in its continued rise, creating a kind of casino-like environment where traders snap up contracts in anticipation that others will as well.

Nation

Hawaii's governor wants to reveal Obama birth info

HONOLULU (AP)—Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie wants to find a way to release more information about President Barack Obama's Hawaii birth and dispel conspiracy theories that he was born elsewhere.

Abercrombie was a friend of Obama's parents and knew him as a child, and is deeply troubled by the effort to cast doubt on the president's citizenship.

The newly elected governor will ask the state attorney general's office about what can be done to put an end to questions about Obama's birth documentation from Aug. 4, 1961, spokeswoman Donalyn Dela Cruz said Tuesday.

"He had a friendship with Mr. Obama's parents, and so there is a personal issue at hand," Dela Cruz said. "Is it going to be done immediately? No, the first thing on our list is the economy."

It's unclear what Abercrombie could do because Hawaii's privacy laws have long barred the release of a certified birth certificate to anyone who doesn't have a tangible interest.

Hawaii's health director said last year and in 2008 that she had seen and verified Obama's original vital records, and birth notices in two Honolulu newspapers were published within days of Obama's birth at Kapiolani Maternity and Gynecological Hospital in Honolulu.

So-called "birthers" claim Obama is ineligible to be president because they say there's no proof he was born in the United States, with many of the skeptics questioning



AP
President Barack Obama laughs with employee Renee Ebba, of Kailua, Hawaii, as he eats his Shave Ice at Island Snow at Kailua Beach Center while on vacation with the first family in Kailua, Hawaii, Monday, Dec. 27, 2010.

whether he was actually born in Kenya, his father's home country.

"What bothers me is that some people who should know better are trying to use this for political reasons," Abercrombie told the Los Angeles Times last week. "Maybe I'm the only one in the country that could look you right in the eye right now and tell you, 'I was here when that baby was born.'"

Abercrombie was unavailable for additional comment Tuesday because he was vacationing on

Maui, Dela Cruz said.

The Obama campaign issued a certificate of live birth in 2008, an official document from the state showing the president's birth date, city and name, along with his parents' names and races. The certificate doesn't list the name of the hospital where he was born or the physician who delivered him, information collected by the state as part of its vital records.

Abercrombie, originally from New York, befriended Obama's parents at the University of

Hawaii after he moved here in 1959, the same year the islands became a state.

Abercrombie, 72, has said he remembers seeing Obama as a child with his parents at social events, although he acknowledged that he didn't see his parents with their newborn son at the hospital.

The number of requests for Obama's birth information increased this month as the Obama family prepared to vacation in Hawaii.

The Department of Health had received 27 requests for the president's birth information this month as of last Thursday, up from 16 in November, said spokeswoman Janice Okubo.

Information requests rose despite a new state law allowing officials to ignore persistent and repetitive inquiries, a law that has been used about six times by the department, Okubo said.

"It's just a few people, and some of their requests are the same," she said. "The requests fluctuate from month to month."

Nearly all birth certificate information seekers are from the mainland United States, with requests rarely coming from Hawaii residents, said Cathy Takase, acting director for the state Office of Information Practices.

Takase usually responds to appeals for Obama's birth records by telling requesters that the information they're seeking is contained in records protected by statute.

Commander: US can't seal Afghan-Pakistan border

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's no practical way for U.S. troops to seal Afghanistan's vast border with Pakistan and stop all Taliban fighters from slipping through, so they are focusing on defending vulnerable towns and fighting insurgents on Afghan soil, a U.S. military commander said Tuesday.

Army Col. Viet Luong said that "to secure the border in the traditional sense" would "take an inordinate amount of resources." He said it also would require far more cooperation from the tribes inside Pakistan who often provide Taliban fighters safe passage.

Other senior U.S. military officials have said they hope the Pakistan military does more to shut down Taliban hideouts. But the U.S. has denied reports that American forces are pushing to expand special operations raids inside Pakistan's tribal areas to target militants.

"It's naive to say that we can stop . . . forces coming through the border," said Luong, who oversees troops in a part of eastern Afghanistan that includes

the volatile Khost province and 162 miles of border.

Instead, Luong said, he is choosing to fight insurgents outside Afghan villages where they are more vulnerable anyway.

Luong said troops under his command are still working to control the border. But he recently shut down one platoon-sized checkpoint known as "Combat Outpost Spera." Luong said he thought the platoon would be more useful protecting more populated areas.

Khost province has been the site of frequent enemy attacks, including a high-profile suicide bombing at a remote CIA outpost last year.

The area's proximity to Pakistan puts it on the front lines of the U.S. fight for control in Afghanistan. Pakistan is host to the Taliban-linked Haqqani network, a militant movement based in its North Waziristan region that carries out operations in Afghanistan.

Luong said he has seen "subtle signs of hope" for Khost after the U.S. and Afghanistan stepped up operations against

the Haqqani network. The number of operations and patrols increased four-fold, up to 12,000 in the past year, while the effectiveness of enemy fire has been cut in half, he estimated.

"Local atmospherics are indicating that the people of Khost are beginning to feel that security is much, much better," he said. "And more importantly, for the first time, they're feeling that the provincial government is now working for the people."

Pakistan's government is believed to give the Haqqani group

some degree of freedom as a way of securing Islamist support against archrival India. Islamabad also faces other problems, including massive flooding this year and government instability. In the latest sign of trouble, a key party in Pakistan's ruling coalition said it would quit the cabinet on Tuesday.

This year has been by far the deadliest in the nearly 10 years for coalition troops in Afghanistan, with 700 killed so far, according to an Associated Press count. Last year, 504 were killed.



ACROSS THE NATION

Rep Davis to Clinton: Stay out of Chicago politics

CHICAGO (AP)—Congressman Danny Davis has a message for former President Bill Clinton: Don't take sides in the Chicago mayor's race—or else. Davis, a longtime friend of Clinton, warned the ex-president on Tuesday that he could jeopardize his "long and fruitful relationship" with the black community if he campaigns for former White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel instead of one of the two leading black candidates running—Davis or former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun. The warning highlights the stakes in what is gearing up to be a contentious race for mayor in the nation's third-largest city. About a dozen people have made it on to the ballot to replace retiring Mayor Richard M. Daley, who is bowing out after more than 20 years in office, giving candidates their first real shot at Chicago's top job for the first time in two decades.

Ski lift accident in Maine sends 8 to hospital

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine (AP)—A 35-year-old chair lift due to be replaced failed Tuesday in high winds at a Maine resort, sending skiers—some of them children—plummeting into ungroomed snow far below that fell with the Northeast's recent blizzard and softened the landing. At least eight were injured. Five adults and three children were taken to hospitals after the double-chair lift at Sugarloaf derailed during a busy vacation week at the resort 120 miles north of Portland. Dozens of skiers remained on the crippled lift for more than an hour until the ski patrol could get them down. It's unclear whether the accident was wind-related or mechanical, officials said. The ski resort was being buffeted by winds gusting up to 40 mph a day after the blizzard blew through. A witness said he saw someone working on the lift before the derailment.

Manatees paddle to warm water to escape Fla. chill

APOLLO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—People aren't the only ones in Florida who don't like cold weather. Manatees—those giant aquatic mammals with the flat, paddle-shaped tails—are swimming out of the chilly Gulf of Mexico waters and into warmer springs and power plant discharge canals. On Tuesday, more than 300 manatees floated in the outflow of Tampa Electric's Big Bend Power Station. "It's like a warm bathtub for them," said Wendy Anastasiou, an environmental specialist at the power station's manatee viewing center. "They come in here and hang out and loiter around." Cold weather can weaken manatees' immune systems and eventually kill them. State officials said 2010 has been a deadly year for the beloved animals: between Jan. 1 and Dec. 17, 246 manatees died from so-called "cold stress." During the same time period in 2009, only 55 manatees died from the cold. In 2008, only 22 manatees succumbed to chilly temperatures.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT	
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP11-DOF/REV-019	
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 24, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M. "TECHNICAL TAX CONSULTING SERVICES FOR DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION OFFICE"	
<small>COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.</small>	
<small>A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION OFFICE IN THE JOETEN DANDAN COMMERCIAL BUILDING.</small>	
<small>PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.</small>	
<small>/s/ ASUNCION S. AGULTO ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE</small>	<small>/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S</small>

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT	
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP11-DPW-002	
CLOSING DATE: Wednesday, January 17, 2010 • TIME: 10:30am "INDUSTRIAL HORIZONTAL GRINDER, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN"	
<small>COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD LOCATED IN OFFICE #315 ON THE THIRD (3RD) FLOOR OF THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA BETWEEN 8AM AND 5PM.</small>	
<small>THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.</small>	
<small>THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.</small>	
<small>/s/ MICHAEL ADA CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD</small>	<small>/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN SECRETARY OF DPW</small>
<small>/s/ HERMAN SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S</small>	

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT	
INVITATION TO BID ITB11-DOF/REV-036	
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M. "PRINTING OF THE CNMI 2010 INCOME TAX FORMS AND SUPPLEMENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION"	
<small>COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWERBASE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.</small>	
<small>SAMPLES OF FORMS (TAX YEAR 2009) ARE AVAILABLE FOR VENDOR'S REVIEW AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, DANDAN COMMERCIAL CENTER OR VIA DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE'S WEBSITE AT http://www.cnmidof.net/rev/forms.asp.</small>	
<small>PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.</small>	
<small>/s/ ASUNCION S. AGULTO ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE</small>	<small>/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN DIRECTOR, P&S</small>

Asia

SKorea seeks NKorea disarmament next year

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president said Wednesday that urgent progress must be made next year in dismantling North Korea's atomic weapons program ahead of a key anniversary that could spur Pyongyang to bolster its nuclear capabilities.

President Lee Myung-bak said diplomats must quickly persuade the North to abandon its nuclear aspirations because Pyongyang is pushing to create a "powerful, prosperous nation" by 2012. The year is the 100th since the birth of Kim Il Sung, the revered guerrilla fighter-turned-political leader who founded the communist state in 1948 and the father of current leader Kim Jong Il.

That push could involve more aggressive behavior, and a South Korean Foreign Ministry-affiliated think tank, the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, warned in a recent report that North Korea could be planning another nuclear test for next year.

The two Koreas are still technically at war because their 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. Last month, the North shelled southern-held Yeonpyeong Island along the disputed sea border, killing four people, including two civilians, in its first assault on a civilian area since the war.



Anti-North Korea protesters burn a North Korea flag and pictures of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and his youngest son Kim Jong Un during a rally in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010.

Six-nation talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program have been stalled for nearly two years, with Washington and Seoul insisting that the North must make progress on past disarmament commitments before negotia-

tions can resume. The North, chronically short of food and fuel, has previously used nuclear and missile tests, and violence, as ways to force the aid-for-disarmament talks and has recently said it's willing to return to negotiations.

700 NATO soldiers killed in 2010; new firefights

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A coalition patrol fought off an insurgent attack in mountainous eastern Afghanistan Tuesday, on a day when two servicemen were killed in the country's troubled south, bringing the death toll for foreign troops in the country 2010 to 700, according to an AP count.

This year is by far the deadliest for the coalition in the nearly decade-long war, as tens of thousands of additional international troops have poured into the country in an effort to suppress a virulent Taliban insurgency. But while NATO and

the United States note progress has been made in the militants' traditional strongholds in the south, they acknowledge gains made remain precarious.

Security has also deteriorated in the north, while many parts of eastern Afghanistan, along the border with Pakistan, remain violent and under militant control. NATO forces often engaging in heavy fighting there.

In the eastern province of Kunar, a fierce firefight broke out when U.S. soldiers from Forward Operating Base Fortress came under attack as their patrol drove

on a small road through mountainous territory in Chowkey District, an AP photographer with the troops said.

A roadside bomb struck a vehicle in the patrol first, and militants then opened fire on the soldiers with rocket-propelled grenades and rifles. The U.S. soldiers hit back with gunfire and artillery in an hour-long firefight that caused no U.S. casualties. The clash reflected the daily violence faced by NATO forces confronting gunfire, roadside bombs and attacks in most parts of the country.

World

Russia rejects criticism of Khodorkovsky's trial

MOSCOW (AP)—Russia's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday fired back at U.S. and European criticism of the second conviction of jailed oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky, telling Western leaders to mind their own business.

Khodorkovsky, a billionaire oligarch who posed a challenge to Vladimir Putin early in his presidency, was convicted Monday of stealing oil from his own company and laundering the proceeds.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton led a chorus of political figures in the United States and Europe in condemning the ruling, saying that it raised "serious questions about selective prosecution and about the rule of law being overshadowed by political considerations."

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the claims were unfounded and accused the West of trying to put pressure on the court.

"We expect everyone to mind their own business—at home

and in the international arena," the ministry statement said.

Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt was undeterred by the Russian warning, writing in a blog post Tuesday that the ruling against Khodorkovsky "makes it difficult to liberate oneself from the suspicion that the verdict was steered by political dictate rather than by judicial balance."

The sentence, expected to be announced before the end of the week, is likely to keep Khodorkovsky behind bars for several more years. The judge on Tuesday continued to read his verdict, a lengthy summary of the 20-month trial.

The street in front of the courthouse was blocked by police to prevent a repeat of Monday's protest, when a few hundred demonstrators chanted "Freedom!" and "Down with Putin!" at times drowning out the reading of the verdict.

Judge Vladimir Danilkin has been reading in a low monotone and so quickly

that even Khodorkovsky's lawyers sitting directly in front of him say they have had trouble understanding.

Khodorkovsky's lead lawyer, Vadim Klyuvgant, told reporters at the end of Tuesday's session that so far the verdict has made little sense.

"Well, I don't know, it might be my personal peculiarities of perception, but, first, it is very difficult to understand what is being uttered, and second, when you do manage to capture something, it is difficult to understand its logic, let alone any grounds for an honest and just assessment."

The Foreign Ministry said the case against Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev involved "serious charges of tax evasion and money laundering," crimes that are punishable under the law in any country.

"In the United States, by the way, people are given life sentences for such crimes," the ministry statement said.

Israeli companies to help build Palestinian city

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—About 20 Israeli suppliers will help build the first modern Palestinian city in the West Bank but only after promising they will not use products or services from Israeli settlements, the project's developer said Tuesday.

The announcement angered the Jewish settlers, who accused the suppliers of caving in to an international boycott of settlement goods and businesses.

The West Bank city of Rawabi, going up 20 miles (30 kilometers) north of Jerusalem, is a key part of Palestinian Prime Minister Salam Fayyad's plans to lay the groundwork for a future Palestinian state, regardless of progress in peace talks.

The participation of Israeli companies in its construc-

tion is both an ironic twist on the heavy use of Palestinian laborers in building Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and a powerful reminder of how much the 43 years of Israeli occupation have made the Palestinian economy reliant on Israel.

Project developer Bashar Masri told The Associated Press that he tries to use Palestinian suppliers whenever possible. But when necessary, he turns to Israeli firms on condition that products and services from any territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war—the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights—are not used.

"Settlements are diabolical. They steal Palestinian land and are an obstacle to an indepen-

dent Palestinian state, and it's time for us to put an end to that harm," Masri said.

He refused to identify any of the Israeli companies, but said they were suppliers of building and construction materials. Their contracts with the Rawabi project were first reported Tuesday by Israel's Army Radio.

Settler leader Dani Dayan fumed that Israeli companies agreed to the Palestinian conditions. "It's a capitulation to the boycott," Dayan said.

Palestinian activists and their supporters have launched a campaign to persuade investors to divest Israeli holdings and boycott Israeli companies over the occupation. The economic impact has been negligible, but for Israel, the negative publicity has been unwelcome.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rising rivers prompt evacuations in Australia

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)—The entire population of the flooded Australian town of Theodore is evacuating as swollen rivers are expected to raise the water level even higher in coming days. Banana Shire Mayor Maureen Clancy said Wednesday that only a few police officers will remain after the remainder of the town's 300 residents are flown out by helicopter later in the day. The state of Queensland has declared two new disaster areas, and at least two other towns—Emerald and Bundaberg—are also preparing to evacuate.

Report: Laos deports Uighurs back to China

BEIJING (AP)—A media report says Laos has deported seven Uighurs who fled China after ethnic riots last year, raising concerns over the treatment of Uighurs forcibly returned to face prosecution by the Chinese government. The U.S.-funded broadcaster Radio Free Asia said that the Laotian government arrested Memet Eli Rozi, his wife Gulbahar Sadiq, and their five children in the country in March and deported them back to China. The report was based on an interview conducted last week with Gulbahar Sadiq, who was now back in western Xinjiang.

China to crack down on official partying

BEIJING (AP)—China is expected to announce a crack-down on lavish parties and seminars organized by officials in the coming year in the latest effort to curb corruption seen as undermining the government. China's ruling party met Tuesday to address excessive spending on official functions as well as public money spent on cars for officials, the China Daily newspaper reported. Communist Party officials will hold a news conference later Wednesday to release a paper on efforts to fight corruption in 2011.

WORLD BRIEFS

European anarchists grow more violent, coordinated

ROME (AP)—A loosely linked movement of European anarchists who want to bring down state and financial institutions is becoming more violent and coordinated after decades out of the spotlight, and may be responding to social tensions spawned by the continent's financial crisis, security experts say. Italian police said Tuesday that letter bombs were sent to three embassies in Rome by Italian anarchists in solidarity with jailed Greek anarchists, who had asked their comrades to organize and coordinate a global "revolutionary war."

Delegation leaves Ivory Coast without Gbagbo

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—West African leaders who delivered an ultimatum to Laurent Gbagbo to step down or face a military ouster left Ivory Coast late Tuesday without taking him into exile a month after the U.N. said he lost the disputed election. In a sign of escalating tensions in the country, the U.N. mission said that one of its peacekeepers had been wounded with a machete when a large crowd in a pro-Gbagbo neighborhood encircled a convoy and set one of its three vehicles on fire.

Radical Nigerian Muslim group claims attacks

JOS, Nigeria (AP)—A radical Muslim sect has claimed responsibility for the Christmas Eve bombings and church attacks in Nigeria that killed at least 38 people, and the group threatened new attacks to avenge local violence against Muslims. Religious fighting has left more than 500 people dead this year in the deeply divided region where Jos is located. Authorities had already blamed the Boko Haram group for some of the deaths Friday, but the online statement attributed to the group was the first solid connection between the violence in two cities.

Focus

By FAYE FLAM

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

Do arsenic-tolerant bacteria redefine life, as some recent headlines pronounced? And why are people saying the finding increases the odds of finding aliens? After a much-ballyhooed NASA news conference last week, a number of biologists were also scratching their heads.

Q: What, exactly, did NASA discover?

A: NASA fellow Felisa Wolfe-Simon and colleagues found some microbes living at the bottom of California's Mono Lake, which has a high level of arsenic. The scientists took the microbes out of the lake and infused them with more arsenic.

Then they claimed that the microbes were incorporating the arsenic into the structure of their DNA and other cellular machinery.

Q: Is this the first example of non-carbon-based life?

A: No. Carbon is still in the leading role, along with oxygen, hydrogen and nitrogen. The claim here is that one of the important supporting actors—phos-



California's Mono Lake is a unique site not far from the Tioga Pass gate of Yosemite that features tufa towers and a saltwater ecosystem with brine shrimp, alkali flies and migratory birds. The tufa are mineral structures created by fresh water springs bubbling up through the alkaline lake.

function the same way with arsenic because it forms weaker bonds with itself. But in any case, he said, these bacteria push the boundaries. "I would say it's demonstrating the plasticity of life—the range of environments life can live in."

Brandeis University biologist Greg Petsko said it would take more than just arsenic in the DNA to make this truly revolutionary. The arsenic would also have to replace phosphorus in another molecule that carries the genetic code—the RNA.

"The DNA and RNA need to be examined extremely carefully to see if they really contain only arsenic where the phosphate groups should be. The DNA maybe could—I bet the RNA cannot," he said. "Some really good, careful analysis needs to be done on all the molecules in this organism."

If they do confirm an arsenic-using biochemistry, that would be something new under the sun, said planetary scientist Christopher McKay of NASA Ames Research Center.

Even in the most extreme environments on Earth, scientists have found only bacteria that look similar to the ones we find all around us. But this bug is different.

The arsenic-eaters: An alternate biology?

phorus—has been taken out and replaced with arsenic, an unusual agent to be sure.

In all life as we know it, phosphorus atoms make up important working parts of cells, including the so-called backbone of DNA—the part that holds the genetic code together. The NASA scientists say these bugs are using DNA with an arsenic backbone instead of a phosphorus one.

Q: Do these bugs use arsenic in their natural state?

A: That's not clear yet. They were able to survive in a lake that had lots of arsenic, but the scientists added more arsenic in the lab. When the arsenic is removed, the bugs go back to using phosphorus, which they seem to prefer.

Q: Why did they choose arsenic? Why not something more benign?

A: Arsenic is the element of choice here because it's like an oversized version of phosphorus. Arsenic and phosphorus form similar bonds with oxygen and other atoms, leading to molecules or parts of molecules with roughly the same shape.

In the periodic table, arsenic is right below phosphorus, and this is important because elements in the same vertical column of the periodic table share bonding similarities.

Silicon, for example, is right below carbon, which is why science fiction writers are fond of speculating about silicon-based life.

If you think of these atoms as Tinkertoy connectors or Legos, arsenic and phosphorus would make the same connections. But arsenic is bigger and often acts differently.

That's what makes it such a deadly poison to most organisms—it fits in the spaces meant for phosphorus, but once there it alters the way the cellular machinery works.

Q: Do scientists assume life must be

based on the usual six elements: carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, phosphorus and sulfur? Why not life based on lead or molybdenum or plutonium?

A: Chemists say there's a reason life loves carbon. If carbon were a person, it would have the most friends on Facebook. Carbon is better than other elements at forming strong bonds with other carbons, linking them in chains, and adding oxygen, hydrogen and other atoms around the edges.

"The thing about carbon is it so nicely forms long chains and large molecules that lead to wonderful things like proteins and membranes and DNA," said Everett Shock, a scientist at Arizona State University.

If the rules of chemistry and physics work the same way elsewhere in the universe, then carbon will act the same way and form the same kinds of molecules.

The other factor is abundance. Life here on Earth builds itself out of some of the six most common elements.

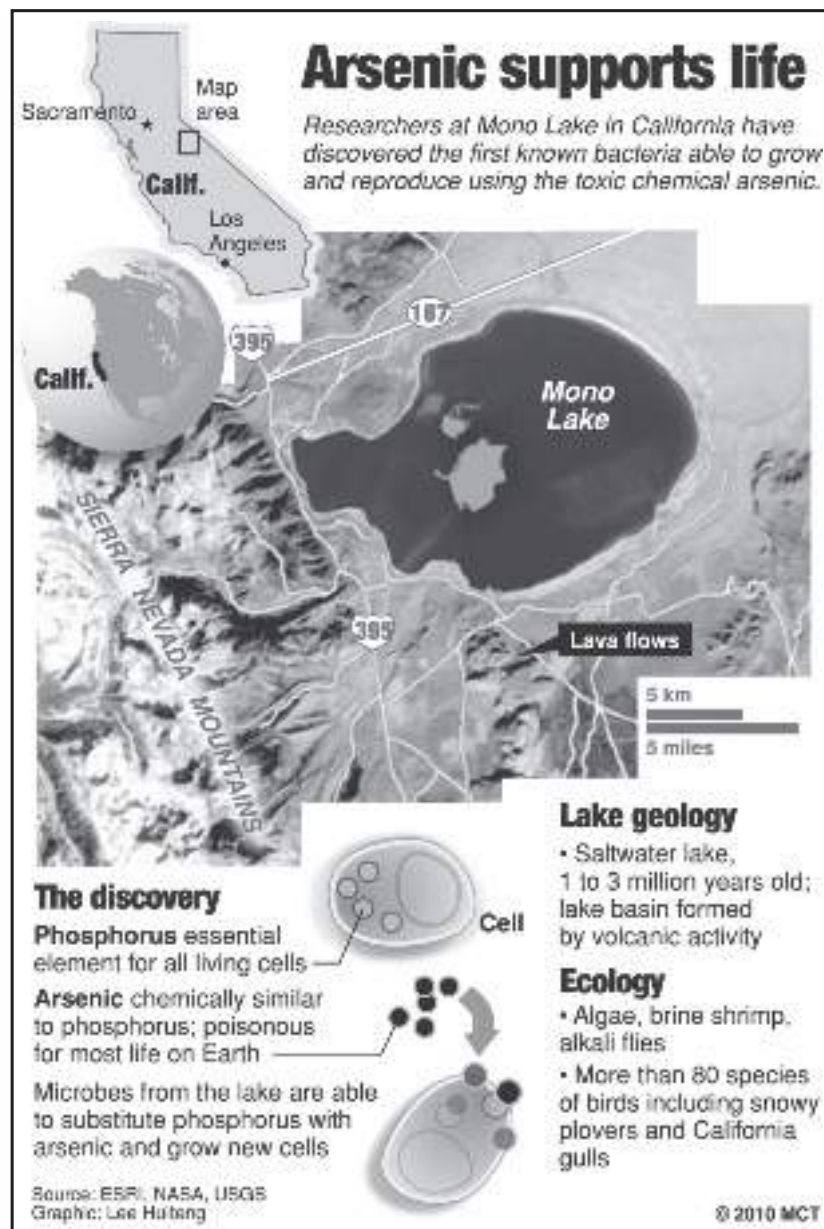
According to the scientists, there's a lot more phosphorus available in the galaxy than arsenic, so life elsewhere would probably use phosphorus.

Q: Does this finding redefine life? What is the definition of life anyway?

A: Defining life has been a long-standing problem for biologists. Life is tough to define because life on Earth all runs on the same parts. It's like trying to define animals if we were the only animal on the planet. Would we think all animals needed hair? Or should walk on two legs?

In searching for life elsewhere, scientists have tried to be open-minded by allowing that life might not be made of the same stuff as here. On the other hand, if biologists started getting all new-age and declaring rocks and snowballs and everything else a possible life form, then they could say life was everywhere. But it wouldn't mean much.

So scientists today think of life as



"This is a case where an organism is changing its fundamental biochemistry in order to live in an extreme environment," he said. "It's doing something we didn't think was possible in order to survive."

Q: Why are some scientists talking about a shadow biosphere?

A: The term shadow biosphere refers to the theoretical prospect of unrelated life forms lurking here on Earth. So far, everywhere we look, life uses the same building blocks and the same genetic code and appears to be related through a common ancestor.

These organisms look to be part of the regular biosphere, so if there are any other biospheres, they remain in the shadows.

Q: What does this have to do with aliens?

A: For years NASA scientists have been engaged in a field known as astrobiology, the study of life elsewhere in the universe. Since they don't yet have alien life to study, they've kept busy by exploring the limits of life here on Earth.

That's supposed to help guide the search for life elsewhere—pointing to possible habitable zones on planets and moons in our solar system and, more recently, planets orbiting other stars.

Here on our home planet, scientists have found organisms that can survive all sorts of extremes, from boiling hot springs to the frozen tundra. They've found microbes that live more than a mile underground and derive energy from hydrogen or other sources completely off the grid—separate from the food chain that starts with sunlight and supports most life on the planet.

Some extreme microbes survive in stuff that's as caustic as battery acid or bleach, while others can withstand blasts of radiation more than 1,000 times the lethal dose for us humans.

"That's all pretty outrageous," said ASU's Shock. "And we're still looking."

something that can access energy from the environment, replicate itself, pass information to the next generation and evolve, ASU's Shock said. "We know life is defined in what it does and what it is capable of doing and not what it's made out of."

Q: How excited are other scientists

about the arsenic bugs?

A: Some say they would be excited if, and this is a big if, the NASA group can prove they've completely substituted arsenic for phosphorus in the working parts of the cell, including the DNA.

Penn biologist Mark Goulian said it would be surprising if the bugs could

Environment

Biologists head to bunkers to fight bat disease

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—Biologist Susi von Oettingen walked into the dark World War II-era military bunker and took out her flashlight. Among the old pipes, wires and machinery parts, she saw some bats hanging from cracks in the cement walls and ceiling.

It was an unusual place for the bats to hibernate, different from a mine or cave. But something else was different, too: None of them had white-nose syndrome, a fungus that's killing bats across the country.

The group of bats found last winter in the New Hampshire bunker was small, recalled von Oettingen, an endangered species biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. But two of the three species discovered there—the Northern Long-

eared Bat and the Little Brown Bat—have been dying off from the disease.

Starting as early as next month, von Oettingen will be part of a group of state and federal biologists monitoring that bunker and a few others in the state. They'll study temperature and humidity levels and put up footholds for the bats, hoping to attract more and figure out if there's a way to control white-nose syndrome, first discovered near Albany, N.Y., in 2006.

"We may be able to maintain a white-nose-free site for these bats to return to," she said.

The disease, which appears to affect bats mostly during winter hibernation, has killed more than a million in the Northeast and has spread to at least 11 states, as far west as



In this March 31, 2010 photo provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Susi von Oettingen, bats are seen in a bunker in New Hampshire. AP

Oklahoma, and parts of Canada. Some caves on federal lands were closed to people this year to prevent them from spreading the disease.

Because the bunkers would be controlled, artificial settings, biologists also might be able to experiment with different treatments for bats with the disease, without worrying about how a spray or drug might affect other organisms.

"This is one of the most promising things I've heard," said Nina Fascione, executive director of Bat Conservation International, an Austin, Texas-based group that focuses on research initiatives involving bats and their ecosystems. "It presents an excellent opportunity to test things."

One of the challenges is encouraging enough bats to use the bunkers, von Oettingen said. "They move around on the landscape, so it may be that they will naturally colonize it, or we may bring some in," she said.

Von Oettingen said New Hampshire plans to reach out to neighboring states to examine their bunkers. Some, such as the one she visited, are on state parks land. Others are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

"There's tons of bunkers of all different kinds out there on the landscape," from World War II, the Cold War-era, and afterward, she said. "Now the question is, do some of these have bats? And so far, we haven't found any more."

Bats hang out in all sorts of manmade structures, but the idea of monitoring them for white-nose syndrome in an artificial setting is relatively new. In Tennessee, the Nature Conservancy has proposed building a large dome-shaped cave, "like a giant upside-down underground swimming pool," said Cory Holliday, the program's cave and karst director. "You can apply whatever control you wanted in there and you wouldn't be

affecting a natural ecosystem."

Tennessee has about 15 species of bats, roughly half of which are potentially susceptible to white-nose syndrome. At least several hundred bats were found with symptoms last year. No deaths have been reported yet.

"We don't know with real certainty if it will work," Holliday said of the cave, "but with white-nose syndrome, it's moving really fast. We don't want to be left five years from now thinking, 'Well, I wish we could have.'"

In October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service came out with a plan to investigate the cause of disease, in which a white fungus develops around bat muzzles, ears and wing membranes, and find ways to manage it.

Biologists say fewer bats, which eat insects, could lead to increased numbers of insect pests, resulting in harm to agriculture and forests. It is anticipated that white-nose syndrome will continue to spread, partly

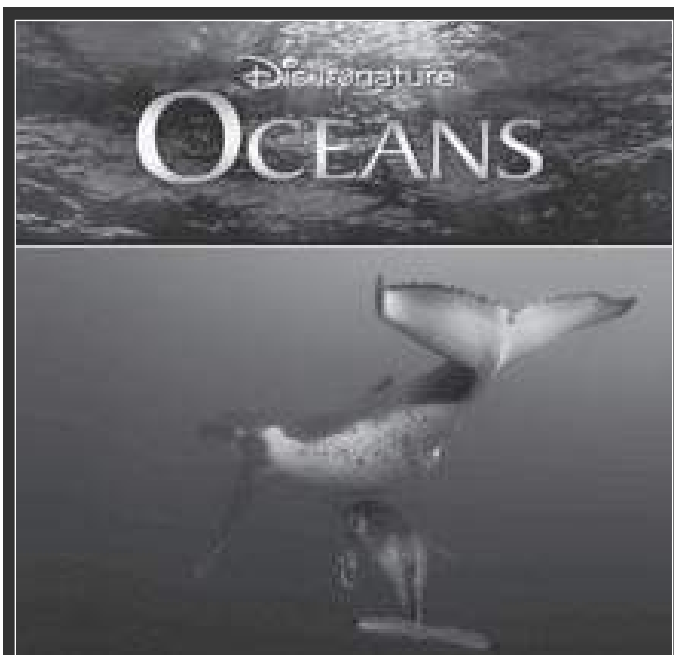
because the fungus can be carried on humans' clothing.

Under the plan, state agencies will monitor bat populations and design disease management programs. The federal government will assist in areas including research, education, funding and testing. Goals include setting up a central database, developing testing standards and continually reviewing knowledge of the disease to identify gaps and research needs.

In New Hampshire alone, surveys last year showed that the state lost over half of its hibernating bats.

"They're dead. They're gone. They're not here," said Emily Brunkhurst, a wildlife biologist for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

"The thing about white-nose is it is an unprecedented disease," Brunkhurst said. "We have never seen a disease in wildlife that affects so many species and is so rapidly fatal and spread so incredibly rapidly."



MMRN members to speak after Disney's 'OCEANS'

To kick off 2011, First Friday Films will be screening the *Disney Nature* film "OCEANS" at 6:30pm on Jan. 7 at the American Memorial Park visitor's center.

Members of the Marine Mammal Response Network will speak about the whales, dolphins, and other marine mammals that are found in CNMI waters and how our community can contribute knowledge of and support for the conservation of these animals.

Nearly three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered by water and OCEANS boldly chronicles the mysteries that lie beneath. It offers an unprecedented look beneath the sea in a powerful motion picture.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to

you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality, with generous support from community groups such as the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance.

The Pacific Historic Parks (formerly the Arizona Memorial Museum Association) Bookstore, located inside the visitor's center, will be open until 8:30pm. All proceeds go to community education programs.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, "First Friday Films" is free and open to the public. Find more information about the film at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com. Subscribe to the blog for regular updates on upcoming events. (PR)

Make your windows more efficient

By **TERRI BENNETT**
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

With all the money we spend this time of year on presents, parties, and everything else—who really can afford to let money fly right out the window? Do Your Part during these chilly months to make your windows more efficient to cut down on your utility bills.

In the winter, drafty windows can account for up to 25 percent of our heating bill. However, there are some fixes that will make all the difference. Common choices include insulating drapes, interior storm windows, and plastic window insulation kit. Each of these solutions has its own pros and cons, but they all insulate the same way. They create an insulated air buffer between your home and the window surface.

Insulated drapes are considered the most attractive option, but experts stress the importance of proper insulation. Drapes must be flush with the wall to effectively create an air space between the window surface and the curtains. Improperly installed curtains that let air pass through the sides of the drapes can actually pull heat away from the room. Drapes, of course, can be re-used and will help reduce utilities costs in every season.

Interior storm windows can be fitted to your windows and are effective at reducing air infiltration. These units use a fitted pane that often clips into a frame. Pane materials range from the more expensive glass to polycarbonate plastic. The advantage to interior storm windows is that they can be

reused for several years. Many favor interior storm windows over exterior varieties because they are easier to install will require less maintenance. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, interior storm windows can reduce heat loss by 25 to 50 percent.

Plastic insulation kits are a very economical choice. Kits include a plastic sheet that is attached to a window frame with adhesive tape and then stretched tight by applying heat with a hair dryer. The plastic film is made of vinyl, polyester or polyethylene and can technically be removed and stored for next winter's use. Most homeowners, however, find these kits to be single season items due to tears in the plastic and the milky appearance created by the aging plastic.

So which is your best choice? Go with a reusable option like interior storm windows or insulating drapes. Homeowners that want to realize long term savings should consider upgrading to Energy Star qualified windows. Energy Star-rated windows will have a substantial upfront cost but are the most efficient way to reduce home heat loss around windows.

Whether you go big or small, Do Your Part to keep the warm air inside your home and more money in your wallet.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, syndicated columnist, and host of DoYourPart.com where you can find everyday green living ideas that are better for you and the planet. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Life & Style

Garapan crowd takes part in Mochitsuki festival

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The evening rainshower last Dec. 27 did not dampen the spirits of the participants and spectators of the Japanese Mochitsuki and Culture Festival.

Organized by the Japanese Society of CNMI and PDM Promoters Inc., the Japanese Mochitsuki & Culture Festival held at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan aimed to promote the rich culture of the Land of the Rising Sun.

Various booths featuring a glimpse of the Japanese cul-

ture were available to all those who endured the downpour Monday night.

The festival was highlighted by the traditional mochi-pounding ceremony called Mochitsuki. Members of the two groups led the making of mochi, a Japanese rice cake made of glutinous rice, pounded into paste and molded into different shapes.

Free samples of three different flavors of mochi—sweet beans, soy sauce, and beans powder—were given to the community and were also available for sale for \$2 per pack during the festival.



Photos by CLARISSA V. DAVID

Some members of the Saipan Awaodori Group perform on the wooden stage at Paseo de Marianas in Garapan during the Japanese Mochitsuki & Culture Festival last Monday.



Young members of the Saipan Awaodori Group perform on the wet pavement of Paseo de Marianas last Dec. 27.



Members of the Japanese Society of CNMI prepare the mochi samples for the festival spectators Monday night.

Above, Half-soaked from the drizzle, members of the Saipan Awaodori Group wait for their turn to perform during the Japanese Mochitsuki and Culture Festival last Dec. 27.

Right, Marianas High School students play with kendama or Japanese wooden toys.



Two male individuals participate in a game at one of the booths during the Japanese Mochitsuki & Culture Festival on Dec. 27.

The Force is strong: 'Empire' tapped for registry

BALTIMORE (AP)—Darth Vader proclaiming he's Luke Skywalker's father, John Travolta preening in his underwear and an early 20th-century deaf activist communicating in sign language are among the images that will be preserved by the Library of Congress as part of its National Film Registry.

The 25 films selected this year include "The Empire Strikes Back," the 1980 sequel to "Star Wars" that many critics and fans consider the best of George Lucas' six "Star Wars" films. "Empire" shocked moviegoers with the revelation that masked villain Darth Vader was the father of hero Skywalker.

While Lucas didn't direct "Empire"—he entrusted it to the late Irvin Kershner—he got another film selected for the registry: the student short "Electronic Labyrinth: THX 1138 4EB."

Lucas' "Star Wars" and "American Graffiti" are also among the 550 titles in the registry.

The Library of Congress announced the selections early Tuesday. The goal of the registry, which began in 1989, isn't to identify the best movies ever made, but to preserve films with artistic, cultural or historical significance.

Librarian of Congress James H. Billington has chosen each of the films in the registry, culling them from suggestions by the National Film Preservation Board and the public. More than 2,100 films were nominated by the public in 2010.

Original copies of films picked for the registry are kept safe and available for viewing by future generations. The library acquires copies to preserve in its cold-storage vaults among millions of other recordings at the Packard

Campus of the National Audio-Visual Conservation Center near Culpeper, Va.

Film can rapidly deteriorate if improperly stored. About half the films produced before 1950 and 90 percent of those made before 1920 have been lost, Billington said.

This year's selections also include "Saturday Night Fever," John Badham's 1977 disco musical starring John Travolta as Tony Manero, the working-class youth known for his impressive moves on the dance floor at a Brooklyn nightclub.

It's one of five selections from the 1970s. The others are Robert Altman's revisionist Western "McCabe & Mrs. Miller," William Friedkin's horror classic "The Exorcist," "All the President's Men," Alan J. Pakula's adaptation of the book by Bob Woodward and Carl

NEW ENTRIES

A list of the 25 films being added to the National Film Registry, as announced Tuesday by the Library of Congress:

- "Airplane!" (1980)
- "All the President's Men" (1976)
- "The Bargain" (1914)
- "Cry of Jazz" (1959)
- "Electronic Labyrinth: THX 1138 4EB" (1967)
- "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980)
- "The Exorcist" (1973)
- "The Front Page" (1931)
- "Grey Gardens" (1976)
- "I Am Joaquin" (1969)
- "It's a Gift" (1934)
- "Let There Be Light" (1946)
- "Lonesome" (1928)
- "Make Way For Tomorrow" (1937)
- "Malcolm X" (1992)
- "McCabe & Mrs. Miller" (1971)
- "Newark Athlete" (1891)
- "Our Lady of the Sphere" (1969)
- "The Pink Panther" (1964)
- "Preservation of the Sign Language" (1913)
- "Saturday Night Fever" (1977)
- "Study of a River" (1966)
- "Tarantella" (1940)
- "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" (1945)
- "A Trip Down Market Street" (1906)



This 1980 publicity image originally released by Lucasfilm Ltd., Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker and the character Yoda appear in this scene from "Star Wars Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back."

"Preservation of the Sign Language," a two-minute film of George Veditz, one-time president of the National Association of the Deaf of the United States. Veditz was one of the first to make motion picture recordings of American Sign Language, and in the film, he argues forcefully for the right of deaf people to sign instead of speak.

"That was a great revelation," Billington said.

As in the past, the selections show the Library of Congress has a sense of humor. Two broad comedies—"Airplane!" the 1980 disaster-film spoof, and "The Pink Panther" (1964), starring Peter Sellers as the bumbling Inspector Clouseau—were tapped for preservation.

The most recent films chosen were "Study of a River," an experimental 1996 film about the

Hudson River, and "Malcolm X," Spike Lee's 1992 biography of the civil rights leader.

Documentaries picked this year include John Huston's "Let There Be Light" (1946), which the Pentagon banned from public distribution for 35 years because of its frank depiction of psychological trauma among combat veterans.

While Billington enjoys the popular films selected for the registry, he takes more satisfaction in unearthing lesser-known titles with lasting significance. He pushes the board to find examples from underrepresented categories such as industrial and abstract films.

"The most interesting thing for me is not seeing something I like make the list, but getting educated by the list that comes out of this process," he said.

Annual box office down a bit from 2009 record

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Domestic box-office revenues for 2010 won't quite hit last year's record-setting haul, but they'll be awfully close.

Total movie-ticket sales will reach \$10.556 billion, the tracking agency Hollywood.com said Tuesday. That's a slight decrease from the \$10.6 billion total from 2009, but it's also only the second time that the annual box office has crossed the \$10 billion mark.

At the same time, total attendance was down 5.36 percent from last year. That's the biggest percentage drop year over year since 2005. This will also be the second-lowest attended year of the decade.

It looked as if 2010 might have set a new record at the beginning of the year, when 2009's "Avatar" was still going strong well into February and March, said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. James Cameron's 3-D sci-fi epic boasts the biggest box-office take in history, collecting \$2.7 billion worldwide, nearly \$750 million of which came domestically.

"I started figuring the wheels might come off this thing when the summer season was faltering,



In this film publicity image released by Disney, from left, Jessie, voiced by Joan Cusack, Buzz Lightyear, voiced by Tim Allen and Woody, voiced by Tom Hanks are shown in a scene from "Toy Story 3."

and by the end of the summer it was the lowest-attended summer in over a decade," Dergarabedian said. "Then I thought, maybe we can make it up in the holiday season, with 'Tron,' 'Harry Potter,' 'Tangled' and some other big movies on the way, but I didn't know if there would be enough juice in the box office to make up for the loss of the summer, and it just didn't happen."

"Toy Story 3" was the highest-grossing film released in 2010, earning nearly \$415 million. It's one of many movies that were offered in 3-D or IMAX 3-D, which come with higher average ticket prices—which is

partly what helped boost the annual total as far as it got, even as attendance sagged.

"Without that, we'd be looking at revenues that may not even have surpassed \$10 billion," Dergarabedian said.

But he has hope for another record in 2011, when sequels to the hit comedy "The Hangover" and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" franchise are due, along with the highly-anticipated comic book-inspired "Thor" and "Captain America: The First Avenger."

"My biggest lesson learned from this year," Dergarabedian said, "is it's always about the product."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies. GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$5.75 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$5.75 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$5.75 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$5.75 Military with Valid I.D.

TIMEWARP TUESDAY \$5.75 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



For Friday, December 24th through Thursday, December 30th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



NOW SHOWING



Little Fockers
 Fri & Sat 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40
 Sun through Thurs 1:20 4:20 7:20
Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A birthday party for the twins gives Greg an opportunity to redeem himself after he takes a job that raises the suspicions of his overbearing father-in-law, Jack (Robert De Niro), in this installment of the hit comedy series. Greg (Ben Stiller) and Pam (Teri Polo) have been together for ten years, and now they're the proud parents of two adorable twins. But money is tight, and in order to keep his family afloat, devoted nurse Greg takes a second job working for a drug company.



True Grit
 Fri & Sat 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35
 Sun through Thurs 1:25 4:25 7:25
Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon
 Western • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A 14-year-old girl joins an aging U.S. marshal (Jeff Bridges) and another lawman (Matt Damon) in tracking her father's killer into hostile Indian territory in Joel and Ethan Coen's adaptation of Charles Portis' original novel. Sticking more closely to the source material than the 1969 feature adaptation starring Western icon John Wayne, the Coens' True Grit tells the story from the young girl's perspective, and re-teams the celebrated filmmaking duo with their No Country for Old Men screenwriting partner Scott Rudin. Josh Brolin co-stars.



Yogi Bear
 Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sun through Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00
Justin Timberlake, Dan Aykroyd
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

Synopsis

Hanna-Barbera's beloved picnic basket-stealing bear makes his big-screen debut in this live-action/animated mix children's pic from Ash Brannon, co-director of Surf's Up. The Tooth Fairy writing team of Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia provide the screenplay, which will center around CG Yogi and Boo Boo as they interact with live actors in Jellystone Park.



Tron: Legacy
 Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sun through Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05
Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges
 Science, Fiction • Rated PG



Fighter
 Fri & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale
 Drama • Rated R



How Do You Know?
 Fri & Sat 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sun through Thurs 1:30 4:30 7:30
Reese Witherspoon, Owen Wilson
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader
 Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sun through Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:15
Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

MTV 'Teen Mom' star faces domestic battery charges

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP)—Prosecutors in central Indiana have filed felony domestic battery and child neglect charges against a star of the MTV reality show "Teen Mom."

Anderson police began investigating 20-year-old Amber Portwood after a September episode showed her slapping, choking and kicking the 24-year-old father of her daughter.

Portwood was arrested Monday and jailed under a 24-hour hold until Tuesday afternoon.

Detective Mitch Carroll tells The Herald Bulletin that the child neglect charges stem from Portwood's then-1-year-old daughter being present during two filmed instances of domestic violence.

The Associated Press left a telephone message seeking comment Tuesday at the office of Portwood's attorney Robert Schembs.

Anne Houseworth of the Indiana Department of Child Services said dozens of viewers called the state's child abuse hotline to report Portwood's outbursts.



AP
This Dec. 27, 2010 photo released by the Madison County Sheriffs Department shows Amber Portwood, Prosecutors in central Indiana have filed felony domestic battery and child neglect charges against the star of the MTV reality show "Teen Mom."

LeAnn Rimes, Eddie Cibrian to wed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian are getting married. Rimes' publicist, Rhett Usry, confirmed Tuesday that the country singer and the actor "were engaged over the holidays and are very happy."

Both were married to other people when they fell in love with each other. Rimes, 28, and

Cibrian, 37, co-starred in the 2009 Lifetime original TV movie "Northern Lights."

Cibrian's divorce from his wife of eight years was finalized in October. Rimes' husband filed for divorce a year ago. Irreconcilable differences was listed as the reason for both previous marriages ending.

In this April 18, 2010 file photo, LeAnn Rimes and Eddie Cibrian arrive at the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas. AP



AP
Academy Award winning actress Reese Witherspoon holds her co-star Chihuahua dog Bruiser, as she is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Witherspoon announces plans for 2nd marriage

NEW YORK (AP)—Reese Witherspoon is engaged to Hollywood agent Jim Toth. A representative for the actress confirmed that the couple will wed and that they're "extremely happy." The engagement was first reported by Us Weekly.

The 34-year-old actress was previously married to actor Ryan Phillippe. She has two children with

him and they divorced in 2008.

Witherspoon won an Oscar for her performance in "Walk the Line." She stars in the recently released comedy "How Do You Know."

Toth is an agent for Creative Artists Agency. Witherspoon is a CAA client but is represented by another agent.

Brusque behavior provokes road rage in cubicle aisles

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: There is a situation at work that has smoke coming out of my ears. I'm past the age of retirement, but need to continue working. I'm with a great company and enjoy what I do.

The fly in the ointment is one of our salespeople. He's a big, strapping guy who comes barreling down the narrow aisles between cubicles. On more than one occasion I have had to execute a quick side step in order not to be run over. After the most recent near miss, I told him in no uncertain terms that if it ever happened again, I'd let him plow into me and take the consequences.

My question is, if I don't get out of his way and do get knocked down, what recourse do I have? Good manners would dictate that the younger man allow me to pass first, but are there any legal ramifications? I would love to smack him (like Bette Davis would in an old movie), but with my luck, I'd be charged with assault. What say you, Abby?

ON A COLLISION COURSE IN WISCONSIN

DEAR ON A COLLISION COURSE: Good manners would, indeed, dictate that the younger man allow you to pass first, if the younger man has been taught basic manners by his parents. Apparently, this salesman's parents didn't do that. So rather than smacking the ignoramus, you should address your concerns to your supervisor, so he or she can tell him to slow down and watch where he's going. If you were injured on company property, the liability would be the company's, and the physical ramifications for you could be serious.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: A few weeks ago I had one of the greatest days of my life when I married my fiancée, "Joy." The ceremony was interrupted when my brother-in-law's cell phone rang. I was so annoyed I turned around and asked him if he'd like us to wait while he took the call.

The backlash at the reception later was all directed at me! Joy and my side of the family laughed about it. But Joy's family was angry and said I should have ignored it. What are your thoughts or advice? Should I apologize even if I'm not sorry?

ON HOLD IN CHANDLER, ARIZ.

DEAR ON HOLD: Your brother-in-law owes both you and Joy the apology. He should have turned his cell phone off before the ceremony. If he's in a field where he's on call 24/7, then the phone should have been set to vibrate rather than ring.

P.S. Please tell me he didn't actually answer it. Readers, has this happened to you?

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We live in a retirement community that includes some single men. On a couple of occasions, one of the gentlemen has come into the clubhouse with his zipper down. If there are no other men in the area, what would be the appropriate way to handle something like this? I know it would be embarrassing if the problem was addressed in a public manner. What's your suggestion?

BLUSHING IN ARIZONA

DEAR BLUSHING: Take the person aside and tell him quietly that his fly is open. (It's not unlike telling someone of either sex that he or she has a bit of salad stuck between his or her front teeth.) This way the problem can be remedied quickly and efficiently, with the least embarrassment to either party.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Space flight and Civil War saluted in new stamps

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two of America's favorite space-men—the cool-headed Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard and the animated Buzz Lightyear of "Toy Story" fame—join movie stars, musicians and artists being honored in 2011 with stamps from the U.S. Postal Service.

Ronald Reagan, an actor who had a more lasting impact as the 40th president, will be honored in February with a stamp on the 100th anniversary of his birth.

Also getting a stamp for a 100th birthday: the Indianapolis 500. The Postal Service announced its 2011 lineup on Tuesday.

Other events being commemorated with stamps include the 150th anniversaries of the beginning of the Civil War and of Kansas statehood and the 50th anniversary of U.S. manned spaceflight. In addition to a stamp featuring Shepard, the first American in space, is one noting the Mercury orbit of the spacecraft Messenger, expected to take place in March.

Actress Helen Hayes, twice the winner of an Academy Award (1931's "The Sin of Madelon Claudet" and 1970's "Airport"), will be honored with a stamp.

Joining her is another Oscar winner, actor Gregory Peck (1962's "To Kill a Mockingbird").

Actress Carmen Miranda, whose fruit-filled headgear made her an icon of 1940s musical comedies, is one of the performers being remembered in the five-stamp Latin Music Legends series. Others are Selenia, Carlos Gardel, Tito Puente and Celia Cruz.

Animated characters like Buzz Lightyear get their due in a series of Disney Pixar stamps from the movies "Cars," "Ratatouille," "Toy Story," "UP" and "WALL(asterisk)E."

Among other stamps to be issued in 2011 are those for:

- Mark Twain, author of "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and a bestselling autobiography just released this year.

- Rep. Barbara Jordan of Texas, a groundbreaking politician and civil rights leader. She is the Black Heritage stamp honoree.

- the U.S. Merchant Marine.

- jazz appreciation.

- artists Edward Hopper and Romare Bearden.

New designs are also set for Purple Heart, Wedding and Holidays stamps.



AP
This handout image provided by the US Postal Service shows a postage stamp honoring Fort Sumter, a design which is included in the 2011 US postage stamps collection.

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

2007 Toyota Corolla and Nissan Sentra. Excellent condition. Call 287-7676

WHATZIT Solution: Chew it over

Looking for a FEMALE friend
Must be a healthy, honest, nice, educated, 25 to 35 years old, U.S. citizenship or Saipan female. Welcome to meet! I am a businessman, many years in Saipan, single, College graduate. Height 175cm, weight 80Kg, and age 36. I love to travel and play sports, healthy, faithful, and friendly. I don't smoke and gamble.
Contact: 670-287-3568
Gmail: saipanbbc@gmail.com

WANTED
2 Cooks
2 Waiter/Waitress*
Must be a U.S. Citizen*
Walk-in applicants only with picture.
No phone calls.
Deadline Jan. 15, 2011
Country House Restaurant

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit.
Under arrest.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION,
Plaintiff,
vs.
SAIKICHY S. ANGEY and LUISA K. ANGEY,
Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0077
FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 22, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 005 1 272, situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 935 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 1 05, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 84-1364, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.
Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 7, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.
Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.
DATED, this 9th day of December, 2010:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT
STATE OF HAWAII
FC-A NO. 09-1-0071
In the Matter of the Adoption of
A FEMALE CHILD, Born on
May 10, 2007 by
BRENT HARUKI SHIMOKAWA and
ROXANNE SHIZUE MORI SHIMOKAWA
Husband and Wife, Petitioners.
THE STATE OF HAWAII TO:

Guo An Zhan aka Zhan Guo An, whose last known address is unknown.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition for adoption of the above –identified child born to Mei Yue Piao aka Piao Mei Yue, the child's mother, has been filed in the Family Court, First Circuit State of Hawai'i.

THE PETITION ALLEGES that your consent to the adoption of the above-named child by the petitioners above-named is not required and may be dispensed with pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 578-2(c) as amended.

A hearing on the petition will be held on Tuesday, JAN. 25, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. at the Family Court located at 4675 Kapolei Parkway, 3rd Floor, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

IF YOU FAIL to appear at the hearing on the date and time and at the place noted above or if you fail to file a written response to the allegations reflected in the Petition for Adoption, further action may be taken including the granting of the adoption with further notice to you. Your written response should be addressed to the Presiding Judge, Family Court, First Circuit, 4675 Kapolei Parkway, Kapolei, Hawaii 96707.

FAILURE TO OBEY this notice may result in an entry of a default and default judgment against you.

YOUR ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the child, the adoptive parents and the natural parents have rights under H.R.S. Section 578-15 regarding confidentiality of adoption records after the child reaches age 18.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii, NOV. 23, 2010

/s/ S. IHA
Clerk of the above-entitled Court

Laurie A. Loomis #3716
1001 Bishop Street. #2380
Honolulu HI 96813

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

I

T

MAST

CA

E

Find today's solution in this section

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Wade leads Heat against Knicks, 106-98



MIAMI (AP)—No blowout this time for the Miami Heat. They can beat the Knicks with a grind-it-out finish, too.

Dwyane Wade scored 15 of his season-high 40 points in the fourth quarter, LeBron James and Chris Bosh each finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds, and the Heat held off a late comeback to beat New York 106-98 on Tuesday night, Miami's 15th win in its last 16 games overall and its seventh straight over the Knicks.

Wade hit a step-back 3-point shot with less than 2 minutes left to stop one New York run, and James essentially sealed it by blowing past Danilo Gallinari for a layup and seven-point lead with 40 seconds remaining.

"My teammates did a great job, especially in the fourth, of looking for me," said Wade, who scored 15 of Miami's 21 points in the last 8:30. "Guys did a great job getting me the ball in my sweet spots and I was able to attack."

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 14 points and added 10 rebounds for the Heat, who won by 22 in New York on Dec. 17 and led this one by 22 as well—then held off a big challenge down the stretch.

"I told the guys, a 22-point lead against the Knicks is similar to a seven- or eight-point game against a normal team," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They kept on coming ... and that's what they do."

Amare Stoudemire scored 30 points for the Knicks, who lost for the fourth time in their last six games. Wilson Chandler scored 21 for New York, which got 15 from Raymond Felton, 13 from Gallinari and 11 from Toney Douglas.

"These guys are playing as well as anybody," Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said of the Heat before the game, "if not the best."

At times Tuesday, those words rang particularly true.

Stoudemire had a tip-in to make it 97-93 with 2:02 left, and Spoelstra drew a technical for arguing from referee David Guthrie that it should have been

offensive interference. Felton hit the free throw and suddenly, it was a one-possession game.

Wade wasn't worried.

His 3-pointer made the lead six again, and about a minute later, he went to the floor to collect a key rebound. James went left and past Gallinari with ease on the ensuing possession, and Miami held on.

"If you do panic, you're probably going to lose," Bosh said. "To be honest with you, we've given up leads before. Everybody gives up leads. It's the NBA. It's nothing you can do to change it. ... We've been there before. You never panic. I don't care how bad it looks. You just keep playing basketball and stay the course."

Wade had the highest point total for a Heat player this season—he had 39 against Utah on Nov. 10—and the 29th time that the 2006 NBA finals MVP had put up at least 40 in a regular-season game.

And for the Heat, it was the 16th straight time they held an opponent under 100. They out-rebounded New York 50-32, and put their 14th win of December in the books, tying a franchise record for any month.

"It took a few weeks, maybe a month, maybe a month-plus for us to feel comfortable with one another on the court," James said. "But we figured that out."

Both teams play an up-tempo, get-out-and-go style, the Knicks coming in leading the NBA at nearly 108 points per game, the Heat averaging nearly 101.

So naturally, it was a 7-foot-3 guy who isn't exactly a speed demon who stole the early show.

By the time the game was 8 1/2 minutes old, Ilgauskas had 12 points—to Stoudemire's two—and nine rebounds. Everything was around the rim for Ilgauskas, who had only scored more than 12 points in one game this season, forget doing it in nary a few minutes against a legitimate MVP candidate in Stoudemire.

His spree helped Miami run out to a 34-15 lead late in the first, and that was all before Bosh even hit the scoring column.

"Just had bad energy," said Miami guard Landry Fields.



New York Knicks' Ronny Turiaf (14) forces Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (3) to pass the ball during the first half of a NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010.

Stoudemire starting hitting his stride in the second quarter, getting nine points, but the Knicks never got within 10 even while Miami managed just one field goal in the first 5 minutes of the period. It was 53-40 Heat at the half, and things likely seemed comfortable to the standing-room-only crowd.

They were not.

"Tonight was a measuring stick game for us and we feel we played well despite the first quarter," Stoudemire said.

The Knicks have scored 100 points or more in 12 of their last 14 games, their two losses

to Miami the lone exceptions, and came out flying in the third quarter. Felton banged his knee near midcourt with 8 minutes left, recovered while keeping his dribble and threw an alley-oop pass to Chandler to get the Knicks within 57-49—the closest New York had gotten since 4:01 remained in the opening period.

"They play at a different level, speed-wise, defensively," D'Antoni said. "And we didn't match it—but then in the second, third and fourth quarters we did our part. Everything had to go right."

Felton hit a jumper 2 minutes later to cut the margin to 61-55, before Wade kick-started a Heat rally. A jumper from the left corner, followed by a gliding layup around Gallinari, restored Miami's double-digit lead, and the margin eventually reached 80-63 when James Jones hit three free throws with 32 seconds left in the third.

"As you guys can see," Stoudemire said, "we're getting better and it's a good sign for us."

Better? Yes.

Better than Miami? Not on this night, thanks to Wade's big finish.

"He made big shot after big shot," James said.

Spurs 97, Lakers 82

In San Antonio, the San Antonio Spurs prevailed in a clash of the NBA leaders against the defending champions, beating the reeling Los Angeles Lakers.

Tony Parker scored 23 points and DeJuan Blair had 17 points and 15 rebounds, leading an unlikely Spurs cast that handed the Lakers their third straight loss.

Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant finished with 21 points on 8-of-27 shooting. He missed 13 in a row at one point, and might be fuming again after criticizing his teammates following a Christmas Day loss to Miami.

The Spurs improved to 27-4, among the best starts in NBA history. The Lakers dropped to 21-10—the first time since 2007 they've reached 10 losses this early.

Celtics 95, Pacers 83

In Indianapolis, Paul Pierce scored 21 points to lead Boston over Indiana.

Ray Allen added 17 for the Celtics, who were without point guard Rajon Rondo, missing his fifth straight game with a sprained ankle. The Celtics improved to 4-1 without him and maintained the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Brandon Rush led the Pacers with 17 points.

Raptors 84, Mavericks 76

In Dallas, rookie Ed Davis scored a career-high 17 points and pulled down 12 rebounds as undermanned Toronto up-

set Dallas.

Linus Kleiza and DeMar DeRozan added 16 points apiece for the Raptors, who were missing several key players but took advantage of the injury absence of Dallas' top scorer, Dirk Nowitzki.

Toronto had dropped its previous 10 games in Dallas.

Jason Terry scored 18 points for the Mavericks, who had won 17 of their previous 18.

Nuggets 95, Trail Blazers 77

In Denver, an undermanned Denver won its first game in four by downing Portland.

Chauncey Billups scored 18 points while J.R. Smith and Nene added 17 points apiece for the Nuggets, who were without forward Carmelo Anthony for a fourth consecutive game following the death of his sister. The Nuggets said Anthony will also miss the next game before rejoining the team Thursday.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who lost their fifth straight at Denver.

Bulls 90, Bucks 77

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer had 24 points and nine rebounds to lead Chicago past Milwaukee.

Luol Deng scored 24 points for the Bulls, who have won 11 of 13 games.

John Salmons scored 18 points for the Bucks, who shot a season-low 32.1 percent.

Chicago pulled away for good midway through the fourth quarter by going on a 16-4 run.

Magic 110, Cavaliers 95

In Cleveland, Orlando made a season-high 19 3-pointers in a victory over Cleveland.

Orlando won its fourth straight by breaking open a close game in the fourth quarter with leading scorer Dwight Howard fouled out on the bench from late in the third. The Magic extended a one-point lead at the break to a 17-point advantage with 4:23 to play.

Gilbert Arenas scored 22 points and fellow newcomer Jason Richardson added 20 for the Magic.

The Cavaliers lost for the 14th time in 15 games.



DETROIT
(A P) — Longtime

baseball executive Bill Lajoie, whose eye for talent helped build the Detroit Tigers team that won the 1984 World Series championship, died Tuesday. He was 76.

Tigers spokesman Brian Britten said the team first learned of Lajoie's death from the Pittsburgh Pirates. Lajoie had been working as a special assistant to the Pirates.

The Detroit News reported he died at his home near Sarasota, Fla. Britten said he couldn't

Ex-Tigers GM Bill Lajoie dead at 76

confirm the location or the cause of death.

"Bill played an integral role in building the Detroit Tigers into a world championship team in 1984 and a division title winner in 1987," Tigers general manager David Dombrowski said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "Bill was a respected and highly regarded baseball executive who made significant contributions to the Tigers franchise and the game of baseball."

"Mr. Lajoie impacted the lives

and careers of a countless number of players, scouts and front office executives," Pirates general manager Neal Huntington said in a statement. "He was a terrific evaluator of talent, an outstanding baseball man, a tremendous mentor and a better friend."

Lajoie was born in the Detroit suburb of Wyandotte, played baseball at Western Michigan University and made it as far as Triple-A ball as an outfielder.

He joined the Tigers as a scout in 1968 and helped land the likes

of future stars Kirk Gibson, Jack Morris, Willie Hernandez, Lance Parrish, Dan Petry, Alan Trammell and Lou Whitaker.

"I thought we had a good team going to spring training that year," Lajoie said in an interview 15 years later. "But getting (pitcher) Willie (Hernandez) just before camp ended really added a lot."

Hernandez had 32 saves, winning the AL Cy Young and MVP Awards that season.

Whitaker, who grew up in

Martinsville, Va., was shy and quiet and hesitant to sign a professional contract because he didn't have much of a wardrobe. Lajoie bought him two suits, and Whitaker signed.

"I roomed with him for 10 years in Lakeland, (Fla.)," Tigers manager Jim Leyland, long a manager in Detroit's farm system, told The Detroit News. "He was a great teacher for me. We'd sit there and talk baseball, hours on end."

"I would write a lot of it down because he really knew the game. And he really knew talent. But his greatest knack

was finding the pieces that completed the puzzle."

Lajoie was scouting director and assistant general manager for the Tigers before coming general manager in 1984, a job he held till 1990.

Among his last moves at Detroit was the signing of Cecil Fielder as a free agent from Japan for the 1990 season. Fielder had 51 home runs that year.

After leaving Detroit, Lajoie served as an assistant for the Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Cincinnati Reds, Atlanta Braves and Milwaukee Brewers.

Webb, Peterson help Vikings upset Eagles



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Considering everything else the Minnesota Vikings have endured this season, it was silly to think two extra days sitting around a hotel room would bring 'em down.

No way a determined rookie quarterback named Joe Webb was going to let that happen.

Webb threw for 195 yards and ran for a touchdown in his first career start filling in for an injured Brett Favre, and

the lowly Vikings stunned Michael Vick and the NFC East champion Philadelphia Eagles 24-14 in the NFL's first Tuesday game since 1946.

"It was a big win, especially with what we have gone through," Webb said. "It was a long trip for us and to get a win against the Eagles, we are trying to finish the season on a high note."

Adrian Peterson ran for 118 yards and a score, helping the 14-point underdogs knock Philadelphia out of contention for a first-round playoff bye.

The Eagles (10-5) could've secured a first-round bye with a victory over the Vikings (6-9) and Dallas and with a loss by either Chicago or Atlanta next week.

"We don't deserve it after that performance," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "Every phase was terrible. We didn't coach well enough. We didn't play well enough. I'm disappointed in myself. It's embarrassing."

Now the Eagles are locked into the NFC's No. 3 seed and will host the No. 6 seed on Jan. 8 or 9. Their final game against



AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Joe Webb (14) scores a touchdown past Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Jamar Chaney (51) in the second half of an NFL football game, Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, in Philadelphia.

Vick, Brady, 4 rookies make Pro Bowl

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Vick's sensational comeback season made a big impression throughout the NFL, not just in Philadelphia.

The Eagles' quarterback, who sat out two seasons while serving a federal sentence for dogfighting, was voted to start for the NFC in the Jan. 30 Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

Vick was selected in a leaguewide vote by NFL players, coaches and fans.

Vick made three Pro Bowls with Atlanta before he was suspended by the league and served jail time for running a dogfighting ring. This season, he has gone from a seldom-used backup to the NFC's leading passer, the catalyst for Philadelphia's dynamic offense.

He wasn't really interested in talking about the Pro Bowl after the Minnesota Vikings upset the NFC East champion Eagles 24-14 in the NFL's first Tuesday game since 1946.

"I'm not worried about the Pro Bowl right now," he said. "There's so many things going on in my head. I appreciate the Pro Bowl, but as of right now, I can't even focus on that. It's in oblivion right now."

Besides Vick, the Eagles had four other players selected.

Atlanta, which leads the NFC with a 12-3 record, had the most Pro Bowlers with seven, including quarterback Matt Ryan, receiver Roddy White and defensive end John Abraham.

New England (13-2), the AFC leader, had six Pro Bowlers, led by QB Tom Brady, the league's top passer who will make his sixth trip to the game—providing the Patriots don't make the Super Bowl. The game will be played the Sunday before the title game at Dallas Cowboys Stadium.

Baltimore, Green Bay and Dallas also had five players voted in Tuesday.

Four rookies were chosen, with DT Ndamukong Suh of Detroit a starter for the NFC. Cornerback Devin McCourty

of New England, kick returner Marc Mariani of Tennessee and center Maurkice Pouncey of Pittsburgh made the AFC squad.

"It's a tremendous honor, obviously being a rookie and getting my feet wet in the NFL," Suh said. "I can't expect anything more ... it's only going to make me want to work harder to get back there again."

Altogether, there were seven first-timers on the NFC squad, 14 newcomers for the AFC.

The only teams not represented were Buffalo, Cincinnati, Seattle and Tampa Bay.

Also chosen from the Eagles were receiver DeSean Jackson, tackle Jason Peters, cornerback Asante Samuel and placekicker David Akers. Philadelphia was playing Minnesota on Tuesday night and Vick was not available before the game to comment.

The other Falcons were tight end Tony Gonzalez, fullback Ovie Mughelli, running back Michael Turner and special teamer Eric Weems.

Joining Brady in Honolulu from the Patriots will be McCourty; guard Logan Mankins, who missed a portion of the season in a contract dispute; linebacker Jerod Mayo; safety Brandon Merriweather; and nose tackle Vince Wilfork.

Starting for the NFC with Vick will be White and Detroit's Calvin Johnson at wide receiver, Dallas TE Jason Witten, Atlanta's Turner and Mughelli in the backfield, Peters and Carolina's Jordan Gross at tackle, the Giants' Chris Snee and Saints' Jahri Evans at guard, and Dallas center Andre Gurode.

On defense for the NFC will be ends Julius Peppers of Chicago and Abraham, tackles Suh and Jay Ratliff of Dallas, linebackers Clay Matthews of Green Bay, DeMarcus Ware of Dallas and Patrick Willis of San Francisco, cornerbacks Samuel and Charles Woodson of Green Bay, and safeties Nick Collins of Green Bay and Adrian

Wilson of Arizona.

The NFC punter is Dallas' Mat McBriar, while Chicago's Devin Hester is the kick returner.

Backup quarterbacks for the NFC are Ryan and Drew Brees.

"First off, it's truly an honor just to be in the conversation of being a Pro Bowl player, but to make it two years in a row, I'm real fortunate and appreciative for the opportunity," Matthews said. "Hopefully we'll be busy at the time."

Joining Brady on the AFC's starting offense will be WRs Reggie Wayne of Indianapolis and Andre Johnson of Houston, TE Antonio Gates of San Diego, Jacksonville running back Maurice Jones-Drew and Houston fullback Vonta Leach, tackles Joe Thomas of Cleveland and Jake Long of Miami, guards Mankins and Kris Dielman of San Diego, and Jets center Nick Mangold.

The AFC starting defense features Indianapolis ends Dwight Freeney and Robert Mathis, Wilfork and Baltimore tackle Haloti Ngata, linebackers Ray Lewis of Baltimore, James Harrison of Pittsburgh and Cameron Wake of Miami, cornerbacks Darrelle Revis of the Jets and Oakland's Nnamdi Asomugha, and safeties Troy Polamalu of Pittsburgh and Ed Reed of Baltimore.

Baltimore's Billy Cundiff is the placekicker, Oakland's Shane Lechler the punter, Mariani the kick returner and Montell Owens of Jacksonville the special teamer.

Colts QB Peyton Manning made his 11th Pro Bowl as a backup to Brady. He joined Brett Favre as the only quarterbacks selected to at least 11 games.

San Diego's Philip Rivers is the other AFC quarterback.

"Wow, No. 12 feels like No. 1," Lewis said. "I tell my teammates that I am going to train to be a Pro Bowl player that season, and my focus paid off again this season. This never gets old."

the Cowboys is meaningless in the standings, so it's likely Vick and most of the starters will rest.

Two days after a winter storm forced a postponement, there wasn't even a snowflake visible at the Linc. The game was switched from Sunday because of a howling storm that dumped about a foot of snow in the area—perhaps a good idea considering Philadelphia's history of snowball-throwing fans.

But 42 years after fans got a bum rap for tossing snowballs at Santa—the man in the costume said it was playful pelting—the Eagles said snowballs didn't factor in the decision to move the game.

"There were a lot of issues considered, but that was absolutely not among them," said Pamela Browner White, the Eagles senior vice president of public affairs and government relations.

Nine days after rallying from a 21-point deficit in the final 7:18 to beat the New York Giants on DeSean Jackson's 65-yard punt return on the final play, there would be no miracle at the Linc for the Eagles. Fans started leaving before the two-minute warning.

The Vikings looked more like a team with a lot at stake rather than a group that's ready to start a vacation. The win could help interim coach Leslie Frazier get the job permanently.

"It was a great effort by our players to battle the way that they had to all week and they showed perseverance that has become the hallmark of our team over the last few weeks,"

Frazier said. "I can't say enough about our players and the attitude they showed this week and I'm glad they were rewarded for it."

This has been a miserable season for the Vikings, who nearly reached the Super Bowl last year. They've endured numerous injuries, an ongoing Favre saga, the firing of head coach Brad Childress and the collapse of their stadium.

Favre allegedly sent inappropriate messages and lewd photos to former New York Jets game emcee Jenn Sterger two years ago when they were both with the team. The NFL is investigating the allegations.

Vick, selected as the NFC Pro Bowl starter shortly before the game, mostly struggled after his 3-yard TD pass to Clay Harbor in the first quarter gave the Eagles a 7-0 lead. He lost two fumbles, threw an interception and was sacked six times.

Vick has been battered in recent games and he looked gimpy, gingerly walking to the huddle and off the field most of the night. Vick sustained a quad contusion on the first play of the game.

"I just tried to tolerate it throughout the game and I did. I have a strong will to win and I'll do anything to win a football game. I just tried to go out and get through it."

Trailing 17-7 to start the fourth quarter, the Eagles cut the deficit to 3 when Vick scored on a 10-yard TD run. But the Vikings answered on the ensuing drive. Peterson ran in from the 1 to put Minnesota up 24-14 with 6:43 left. The Pro Bowl running back

showed no signs of the right knee injury that had him listed as questionable.

Favre was inactive for the Vikings because of a concussion, missing his second game in three weeks after an NFL-record 297 consecutive regular-season starts. He watched in street clothes on the sideline and enthusiastically thrust his arms in the air when Webb scored a TD.

The 41-year-old Favre got hurt last week against the Chicago Bears and was listed as doubtful. Frazier said on Monday that Favre still hadn't passed initial concussion testing.

With the way Webb played, the Vikings didn't need Favre. "He came out and did his job and did it well," Peterson said.

The Vikings tied it at 7 in the final minute of the first half when Antoine Winfield sacked Vick, knocked the ball loose and returned the fumble 45 yards for a score.

Minnesota had a touchdown overturned on the opening possession of the second half. Webb's 2-yard TD toss to Sidney Rice was reversed when replays showed the ball was juggled out of bounds. Juqua Parker sacked Webb on the next play and the Vikings settled for Ryan Longwell's 30-yard field goal that put them up 10-7.

Webb made it 17-7 on an impressive run. He looked like Vick dodging and weaving through the defense on his way into the end zone for a 17-7 lead.

Vick fumbled late in the third quarter at the Minnesota 23 to end a drive.

Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball returns Jan. 8

By **WALTER SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Northern Mariana Island Volleyball Association is hosting the 4th Annual Reverse Grass Volleyball Championships on Jan. 8, 2011 at the Navy Hill Field, near Whispering Palms School.

The co-ed format calls for teams to bring their own partner. Games will incorporate pool play in the morning, where

the Top 16 teams advance to the double-elimination playoffs later that afternoon.

Some of the reverse rules include that the nets will be set at women's height and jump serves, blocks, and hitting from inside the 10-foot line by male players are prohibited. However, leaving the ground from behind the 10-foot line and landing inside is allowed.

Pool play games will be played to 15 with a cap of 21. The semifinals and finals matches will be scored to 21

with a cap of 25. Depending on the number of teams entered, the tournament director reserves the right to adjust game scoring in order to finish all of the games on the three available courts.

Registration will take place courtside that morning at 8:30am and games begin at 9am. A maximum of 25 teams will be accepted in the competition.

The entrance fee is \$20 per player or \$15 for NMIVA members. All entries will receive a tournament T-shirt, at least four

games in pool play, complimentary refreshments and comperitive camaraderie during the event. Proceeds of the tournament will benefit the NMIVA's youth development fund.

If a player is under the age of 18, they must have permission from a parent or guardian to participate. All participants must fill out the registration waiver form. For early sign up visit www.nmivolleyball.org to submit/print your own copy.

Prizes up for grabs include \$100 in Shell gas fuel certifi-

cates, brunch and water-park passes from Pacific Islands Club, Super-10 passes from Gold's Gym, water sports certificates from BSEA Sunsports, communications products from IT&E, dining certificates from Tony Roma's and Truong's, beach chairs from Triple J Motors, online discount coupons from PlasticClothing.com of San Diego, California, and more.

The NMIVA would like to express gratitude for all of the support provided by their sponsors, including Triple J Super Fresh Market for donating water, bananas, and Gatorade. More-

over, the NMIVA would like to thank Mili Saiki and her Saipan International School students who will be on hand serving up breakfast burritos.

Last year, Randy Steele and Heather Kennedy drew a top seed after pool play and went undefeated in the playoffs to top a 24-team field. The first-time duo won a \$200 championship purse after downing Quincy Johnson and Emily Matson, 17-15, in the finals.

For more information, contact NMIVA's Randy Steele at rsteale@triplejsaipan.com or Heather Kennedy at heatherin-saipan@yahoo.com.

JOHNSON

From Page 28

feated Nadine Del Carmen and Summer Morrison, 6-1, 6-1. A victory against Rastguiy and

Ackerman in today's game will give Johnson and Lopez the girls U14 doubles crown.

In the girls U14 singles event, it was an all-CNMI semis affair. Rastguiy booked the first semis ticket after stunning the second-

seeded Morrison, 6-0, 6-2. Ackerman survived Emmanuelle Hau-rillon, 8-7, 0-6, 10-5, while Lopez downed Del Carmen, 6-0, 6-2.

In the semis, Rastguiy out-classed Ackerman, 6-4, 6-4, to set up a finals tiff against Lopez, who

swept Johnson in the other semis game. Rastguiy and Lopez were scheduled to meet in the finals yesterday, but results of the match were unavailable at press time.

In other results, top seed Christian Penafiel of Guam advanced to

the boys U18 finals after thwarting Nicko Inocencio in the semis, 6-1, 6-0. Christian's bother, Emil Krisnan, also won against Adrian Calugay in the quarterfinals, 6-4, 6-3, to force a semis tiff against second seed Youjun Cho.

In the boys U14 singles, it will be Joshua Cepeda against Cory Morrison in the finals after the former beat Jeremiah Nelsen in the semis, 6-3, 6-2, and the latter prevailed over Jon Toves in the other semis duel, 6-3, 6-1.

HEO

From Page 28

"Our family is excited for him, as he will start another chapter to his tennis career. We are proud of him and wish him the best of luck when the season starts," Gyu Moon added.

Heo is one of the 13 members of the HPU men's tennis team, which has Sebastian Bader of Austria as its No. 1 player. Other

members of the squad are Sari Alotaibi of Jordan, Ari Davis of New Zealand, March Gooch of Switzerland, Sebastian Grottke of Germany, Wilhelm Irwe of Sweden, Joshua Kakugawa, Gavin Morinaga, and Michael Rothhammer of Hawaii, Matiss Libietis of Latvia, Nick Loucas of California, and J.C. Paul of Nevada. Coaching the Sea Warriors is former All-American Stefan Pampulov of Bulgaria.

Heo and company will debut

against Gustavus Adolphus College of Minnesota with the Sea Warriors playing their first home game of the season on Feb. 3.

From Honolulu, HPU will travel to Phoenix, Arizona for four straight road games. The Sea Warriors will first duel Dallas Baptist University on Feb. 10, then face Grand Canyon University the following day. On Feb. 12, HPU will take on University of California San Diego and then close out its road

assignments against Sonoma State University on Feb. 13.

The team will take a 12-day break before resuming play on Feb. 26 against University of Hawaii-Hilo. HPU will challenge UH-Hilo in back-to-back games, as the two Hawaii teams are also slated to meet again on Feb. 27.

Heo and company will then travel back to Honolulu for a match against Loyola Marymount on March 3. Then the team's next six games will all be on the road

with the Sea Warriors facing UCSD again in San Diego, California on March 12; Barry University on March 13, also in San Diego; West Florida on March 14 in Las Vegas; top-ranked Armstrong Atlantic on March 15 in Las Vegas; Corcordia on March 16 in Las Vegas; and Fresno Pacific on March 17 in Las Vegas.

The Sea Warriors will return to Honolulu on March 21 and

host four more games before the NCAA West Regionals. HPU will play Air Force Academy on March 21, UH-Hilo on March 23, Grand Canyon on March 26, and Idaho College on April 26.

The West Regionals is set for May 5 with the venue to be announced later. After the West Regionals, the NCAA National Championship is next on May 11 in Orlando, Florida.

HOLIDAY

From Page 28

apiece in the first half.

Camacho kept it going after the break with a string of eight points to start the second half. He finished with a game-high 16 points.

Complex defeated Rollers C, 61-39, in another U15 game. Bryl Alegre led the charge with 12 points in the first half that helped build a 30-10 advantage for Complex at the half.

Despite a slow start, Rollers C improved their quality of play in the second half, but still could not recover from the early deficit. Alegre took a break in the second half, but his teammates Nevin Salem and Jack Aranda picked up where he left off and delivered 14 and 9 markers, respectively.

Salem led the trio with 18 points in the game, while Rollers C's Shane De Leon Guerrero led all scorers with 19 in the loss. Notably, De Leon Guerrero scored 15 points in the second half after a dismal four points in the opening period.

The G-Stars, meanwhile,

routed the Falcons, 53-24. The G-Stars' Michael Mancao tallied 12 points in the first half as his team raced to a 22-10 lead at the half. Frankie Lieto connected with a pair of triples that accounted for the Falcons' only bright spot in the first half.

It was much of the same in the second half as Mancao added nine more markers, while his teammate Jacob Palacios delivered eight points in support. Mancao finished with 21 points and the Falcons' Peter Lieto managed a team-high 10 points on the short end.

Rollers C knocked off Rollers B, 20-16, in the U12 matchup held last Tuesday. This was a close match that was tied 6-6 at the break. Joshua Leyco came up with six big markers in the second half for Rollers C.

Rollers B's Kenji Abobo answered Leyco's call with six points in the period, but did not receive as much offensive support in the match.

The Holiday Hoops caging resumes at 9am today with a U15 matchup between Complex and Rollers D. Then another U15 pairing featuring the G-Stars and Rollers A goes

down at 10am before a 10:45am U12 contest between the Rollers A and C teams.

A second U15 double-header comes next at 11:30am when Rollers B takes on their Rollers C counterparts before the Falcons challenge Rollers E at noon.

The two winners of this morning's first U15 double-header face off at 12:45pm and the loser of that matchup will tip off at 1:20pm against the winner of the 11:30am game. Then at 2pm the winner of the noon U15 game will play against the loser of the 10:05am match.

The winners of these two games will face each other at 2:35pm after which the winner of that game will take on the loser of the 12:45pm matchup. After the finals contenders for both divisions are decided today they will challenge each other in tomorrow's championship games. All games are scheduled to take place at Garapan Basketball Court; weather permitting. If rain persists then the games will be moved to the Ada Gym.

Rollers D 38 – Camacho 16, Factor 11, Iglesias 6, Pangelinan 5.
Rollers B 28 – Andy 12,

Castro 8, Bai 4, Denver 4.
Scoring by halves: 21-18, 38-28.
Complex 61 – Salem 18, Aranda 16, Alegre 14, Andrew 6, Villanueva 4, Escalada 3.
Rollers C 39 – De Leon Guerrero 19, Adio 8, Lansang 6, Gregson 4, Cayading 2.
Scoring by halves: 30-10, 61-39.

G-Stars 53 – Mancao 21, Palacios 13, Cudia 6, De Leon 4, A Chan 3, Capuyon 2, Manalili 2, Sanarez 2.
Falcons 24 – P. Lieto 10, F. Lieto 8, Evangelista 2, Lifoifoi 2, Phillips 2.
Scoring by halves: 22-10, 53-24.

Rollers A 52 – De Guzman 12, Macaranas 12, Diaz 8, Miz-er 8, Orejola 6, Dela Rosa 4, D. Kwon 2.
Rollers E 12 – Rios 6, Espinosa 2, Kaipat 2, Vivero 2.
Scoring by halves: 30-10, 52-12.

Rollers C 20 – Cosino 8, Leyco 6, Ker Abobo 4, Batung 2.
Rollers B 16 – Abobo 6, Cenir 4, Kwon 4, Itaas 2.
Scoring by halves: 6-6, 20-16.

Sports Association has estimated the cost per delegate to \$2,200, but each participant will only shoulder \$1,800. Each delegate can pay \$1,800 on installment basis with the first payment of \$360 already due first week of this month. Delegates have until April to complete the payment. The cost could still go down if Team Marianas would get financial assistance from the government.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES											
NBA STANDINGS						NFL STANDINGS					
EASTERN CONFERENCE						AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic Division						East					
	W	L	Pct	GB			W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
Boston	24	5	.828	—		y-New England	13	2	0	.867	480 306
New York	18	13	.581	7		x-N.Y. Jets	10	5	0	.667	329 297
Philadelphia	12	19	.387	13		Miami	7	8	0	.467	266 295
Toronto	11	20	.355	14		Buffalo	4	11	0	.267	276 387
New Jersey	9	22	.290	16							
Southeast Division						South					
Miami	24	9	.727	—		Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	412 368
Orlando	20	12	.625	3 1/2		Jacksonville	8	7	0	.533	336 385
Atlanta	20	13	.606	4		Tennessee	6	9	0	.400	336 316
Charlotte	10	19	.345	12		Houston	5	10	0	.333	356 410
Washington	7	22	.241	15							
Central Division						North					
Chicago	20	10	.667	—		x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	334 223
Indiana	13	16	.448	6 1/2		x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	344 263
Milwaukee	12	18	.400	8		Cleveland	5	10	0	.333	262 291
Detroit	10	21	.323	10 1/2		Cincinnati	4	11	0	.267	315 382
Cleveland	8	23	.258	12 1/2							
WESTERN CONFERENCE						West					
Southwest Division						y-Kansas City	10	5	0	.667	356 295
San Antonio	27	4	.871	—		San Diego	8	7	0	.533	408 294
Dallas	24	6	.800	2 1/2		Oakland	7	8	0	.467	379 361
New Orleans	18	13	.581	9		Denver	4	11	0	.267	316 438
Houston	15	15	.500	11 1/2							
Memphis	14	17	.452	13		NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
Northwest Division						East					
Utah	21	10	.677	—		y-Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412 339
Oklahoma City	21	11	.656	1/2		N.Y. Giants	9	6	0	.600	377 333
Denver	17	13	.567	3 1/2		Washington	6	9	0	.400	288 360
Portland	16	16	.500	5 1/2		Dallas	5	10	0	.333	380 423
Minnesota	8	24	.250	13 1/2							
Pacific Division						South					
L.A. Lakers	21	10	.677	—		x-Atlanta	12	3	0	.800	383 278
Phoenix	13	16	.448	7		x-New Orleans	11	4	0	.733	371 284
Golden State	12	18	.400	8 1/2		Tampa Bay	9	6	0	.600	318 305
L.A. Clippers	10	22	.313	11 1/2		Carolina	2	13	0	.133	186 377
Sacramento	5	23	.179	14 1/2							
Yesterday's Games						North					
Orlando 110, Cleveland 95						y-Chicago	11	4	0	.733	331 276
Boston 95, Indiana 83						Green Bay	9	6	0	.600	378 237
Miami 106, New York 98						Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244 314
Chicago 90, Milwaukee 77						Detroit	5	10	0	.333	342 356
Toronto 84, Dallas 76											
San Antonio 97, L.A. Lakers 82						West					
Denver 95, Portland 77						St. Louis	7	8	0	.467	283 312
						Seattle	6	9	0	.400	294 401
						San Francisco	5	10	0	.333	267 339
						Arizona	5	10	0	.333	282 396
						x-clinched playoff spot					
						y-clinched division					
						Yesterday's Game					
						Minnesota 24, Philadelphia 14					
						BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS					

FRANCE

From Page 28

the Games will be broadcast.

This will be the first time that France Télévisions is sending a big crew to cover a sports event in the Pacific. The firm will bring in six production units that will be spread in seven host cities. More than 150 crews will be in town and there will be about 30 vid-

eo cameras reserved for the Games only.

The 14th Pacific Games will feature more than 500 athletes and officials from 22 countries. They will compete in 28 sports for 15 days. The list includes athletics, beach volleyball, basketball, indoor volleyball, soccer, golf, weightlifting, swimming, rugby 7's, tennis, table tennis, canoe racing, badminton, baseball, boxing, cricket, powerlifting, handball,

judo, karate, squash, surfing, taekwondo, shooting, archery, sailing, and triathlon.

The CNMI has yet to decide how many athletes/officials it will be sending to the Games, although the Commonwealth's golfers have already taken the first step to make it to Noumea. Jordan Kosam of Refaluwasch Golf Association turned in a down payment for the cost of the trip early this month.

Northern Marianas Amateur

Trench Tech Fan Appreciation Night

PHOTOS By
WALTER SUTHERLAND



Above, Team Choas' Joy Inais Fred won his MMA debut over the Beat Boys' Roland "Sharky" Kapileo in Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night held last Sept. 18.

Right, Slade "The Rage" Adelbei showed his soft side when he announced last Sept. 18 at Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night that he is taking a break from fighting next year to spend more quality with his family.

Far right, Martin "Ningbo-Slice" Cepeda, right, bounced back from his recent loss and submitted Guam's Ryan "Trobz" Ngirbaul at 1:03 into the third round to set the stage for the main event in Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night held last Dec. 18.



From left, Private First Classmen Christian Yamada and Elton Escaros appeared as special guest referees in Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night held last Dec. 18 at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio. Pictured with them are Staff Sergeant Ray Terlaje, center, Private First Classman Cheska Salen, and Corporal Jonathan Mañas. The two referees are recent boot camp graduates from the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, California.



Get your **FREE** copy of

TAGA

SPORTS

January 2011 edition at the following locations:

99 Cents, Best Seller, Capricciosa, CHC Gift Shop, Ebisuya, Garapan Market, Han Nam, Happy Market (As Lito & Garapan), Himawari, I-Mart, J's Restaurant, Joeten (Dandan, Garapan, Kagman & Susupe), Kagman Market, Mobil (Chalan Kiya, Chalan Piao, Garapan, Kagman, Middle Road & Susupe), Payless Supermarket, San Antonio Supermarket, San Jose Market, San Roque Market, Sara Market, Shell (Airport, Dandan, Gualo Rai, Highway Express, Koblerville, Puerto Rico, San Roque & Susupe), Shirley's Coffee Shop (Garapan & Susupe), Super Fresh Market, Tony Roma's, Twins Supermaket (Dandan & Puerto Rico), and XO Market.

Thank you to all our advertisers, contributors, sports organizations, and sports personalities.



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2010

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Johnson takes U16 title in Guam



CLARISSA DAVID
Melody Johnson, seen here during the TAGA Sports magazine launch in September, won the girls U16 title in the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships last Tuesday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Melody Johnson won the all-CNMI finals in the U16 singles division of the 2010 Guam Junior Open Championships after surviving teammate Mikayla Lopez in three sets last Tuesday at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Hagatna.



The 14-year-old Johnson took the opening set, 6-1, but failed to sweep the championship game after Lopez bounced back in the second set with a 1-6 triumph. In the third set, the

two CNMI junior tennis players went back and forth before Johnson pulled off a super tiebreaker 10-6 win.

It was Johnson's first victory against Lopez this year. She lost to the diminutive Lopez just last month when the latter topped the former in the girls U15 singles finals of the 2nd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic, 6-3, 6-3.

The triumph was a morale-boosting one for the Marianas High School student, as she came off a loss against Lopez in the girls U14 singles semifinals of the Guam tournament last Tuesday, 4-6, 3-6.

The win was also Johnson's Christmas gift to her father, Ed. Melody hasn't seen his father for about a month, as the older Johnson is still battling cancer and is in isolation. Before going to Guam, Melody talked to his father over the telephone and vowed to win for him.

Lopez and Johnson arranged their title tiff in the girls U16 singles after dominating their respective Guam foes in the semifinals last Monday. Lopez blanked Ashley Nadler in the first semis game, 6-0, 6-0, while Johnson defeated Caroline Loynd, 6-0, 6-1.

After beating Lopez in the girls U16 singles finals, Johnson will go for another title today. Johnson and Lopez will meet Negahr Rastguir and Tammy Ackerman in the girls U14 doubles, which has a round-robin format.

The Lopez-Johnson tandem had earlier de-

See JOHNSON on Page 26

Heo starts collegiate tennis in February

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Former CNMI top junior tennis player Ji Hoon Heo will have his collegiate debut two months from now, as he

suits up for the Hawaii Pacific University in NCAA Division II's Pacific West Conference.

According to Heo's father, Gyu Moon Heo, his son is among the Top 3 players of the HPU Sea Warriors, who were ranked as high fifth in the nation in 2010 and first in PacWest in 2009.

"He is either the team's No. 2 or No. 3 player. He is also one of only three players on the team to get a full scholarship. He has been very busy preparing for the 2011 season, so he can't come home for the holidays," the older Heo said in a telephone interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

See HEO on Page 26

France Televisions to cover Pacific Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



CNMI athletes and other participants in the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia will get TV exposure, as France Télévisions agreed to broadcast

the competition and other shows in the quadrennial event.

According to the NC2001 website, on Dec. 16, France Télévisions president Remy Pflimlin and Organizing Committee of NC2011 Pacific Games

president Pascale Bastien-Thiry signed a partnership agreement for the TV coverage of the Pacific Games.

Under the deal, France Télévisions will air over 100 hours live shows, including a live broadcast of the opening and closing ceremonies. There will also be daily special shows and reports.

Games will be broadcast eight hours a day from Aug. 27 to Sept. 10 on Nouvelle-Calédonie 1ère, Polynésie 1ère, and Wallis et Futuna 1ère. In France, a special daily show on the best events in

See FRANCE on Page 26



France Télévisions president Remy Pflimlin, center, signs an agreement with the Organizing Committee of NC2011 Pacific Games for the TV coverage of the 14th Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Last Monday's rain hindered the start of the 2010 IT&E Christmas Youth Basketball Tournament, but tourney director Joe Diaz moved the games to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday in an effort to provide participants the opportunity to still compete.

Although still a little behind schedule, four U15 games and one U12 matchup were played so far and the tournament continues with 10 more games this morning.

Holiday Hoops goes indoors



The U15 Rollers A and E squads pose for a group photo after yesterday's 2010 IT&E Christmas Youth Basketball Tournament games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Yesterday, Rollers A schooled a smaller Rollers E crew, 52-12. After scoring 10 points in the first half, Rollers E was held to just a single basket in the last frame.

Rollers A's Jaymark De Guzman and Stacey Macaranas each tallied 12 marks apiece in the onslaught, while Keolani Rios' six points accounted for half of Rollers E's entire offense.

Last Tuesday, Rollers D put down Rollers B, 38-28, in U15 play. It was a one-possession game, 21-18, in favor of Rollers D at the half. William Camacho and J.P. Iglesias paced Rollers D with six points

See HOLIDAY on Page 26